2年目

◎タケル　4年3組
◎ユキコ　2年1組

サブタイトル　備考

4月

SOREMACHI
- 『ジャイアントスイング』
- 『歩く鳥』
- 『出張メイドサービス』
- 『たまこやき』（2巻のおまけ）
- 『蘇る脳細胞』
- 『流血のプロセス』

TIMELINE
- 『パジャマの天使』（歩鳥 退院）
- 歩鳥、総先輩のアパートに初めて入る
- クッツンツンと呼ぶ

5月

SOREMACHI
- 『謎の円盤の回想』
- 『最後の謎（前半）』
- 『サインはB！』
- 『フリーマーケットで歩鳥とキス』
- 『最後の謎（後半）』

TIMELINE
- このへんでスニーカー紐調する

6月

SOREMACHI
- 『飛ぶ鳥』
- 『俺達は機械じゃねえ』（現在）

TIMELINE
- 『メイド探偵大活躍』
- ミステリ画報 7月号
- 6／16 九官鳥逃げる
- 6／20 総先輩 九官鳥を保護

7月

SOREMACHI
- 『穴』
- 『ジョゼフィーヌの夏』
- 『幽霊絵画』（夏バート）
- 『紺先輩は読だ！』
- 『嵐山家 火事になる』
- 『図書館の回し者』

TIMELINE
- 犬小屋焼ける
- 総先輩 ジョセと初対面

8月

SOREMACHI
- 『アネの日記』
- 『夕闇の町』
- 『謎現る大捜査網』
- 『謎解小説』
- 『総先輩の静かな怒り』
- 『海の家 号泣事件』
- 『まぼろしの少年』
- 『KAPPA QUEST』
- 『フタバ・デッドエンド』

TIMELINE
- 『嵐山財宝調査隊』
- 亀井堂 アフリカへ

9月

SOREMACHI
- 『バンドラの箱』
- 『幽霊絵画』（秋バート）
- 『秋まつり（9／22）』
- 『大風の夜に』
- 『飼獣は霧の中』
- 『ミラクルスーパーラッキー指輪』

TIMELINE
- 鬼面ライガー コハダ放送開始
- 庭の物干し折れる
- 総先輩 指輪なくす

10月

SOREMACHI
- 『迷路楽団』（前半）（10／1）
- 『ばいのうシンそは』
- 『大人買い計画』
- 『ワン・オア・エイト・アゲイン』
- 『巣』（前編部）
- 『学校迷宮案内』
- 『ツッコミじいさん』
- 『巣』（本番部）
- 『迷路楽団』（後半）

TIMELINE
- 学園祭 プログラム発行
- バンド練習期間
- 学園祭（10／30）

11月

SOREMACHI
- 『コンタクト』
- 『激突！妖精VS死神』
- 『Detective girls』
- 『不良少年不良少女群像劇』
- 『時は待ってくれない』
- 『実に微妙なカード』

TIMELINE
- 犬のポスター

12月

SOREMACHI
- 『ガッカリなカード』
- 『タイムカプセル』
- 『現代版またたのひも』
- 『Detective girls 2』
- 『廃村』
- 『テリトリー』

TIMELINE
- 『呪のルーレット』
- 犬の足跡見つかる

1月

SOREMACHI
- 『まぬけな正月の過ごし方』
- 『燃えよ歩鳥』
- 『A・KO・GA・RE ロンギング』
- 『下町雪訪い小話』
- 『歩鳥の戦争』
- 『逢えない二人』
- 『血のバレンタインデー』

TIMELINE
- 年明けからラーメン虎断値上げ

2月

SOREMACHI
- 『ナイトストーカー』
- 『さっくばらん』
- 『謎の円盤』
- 『それ町サスペンス劇場Ⅱ』

TIMELINE
- 歩鳥 髪が短く
- スキー旅行

3月

SOREMACHI
- 『歩鳥はコタツで推理する』
- 『赤』
- 『立つ鳥』（冒頭パート）
- 『答砲修氣』
- 『辰野俊子のお友達』
- 『立つ鳥』（春休みパート）
- 『時限爆弾』
- 『謎の円盤』

TIMELINE
- 凛ちんVS辰野
- 総先輩 第2志望合格
- 歩鳥 凛ちんを認識
- 河井荘 引き払う
- 総先輩 卒業式（3月半ば）
- 同窓会

3年目

◎タケル　5年3組
◎ユキコ　3年1組

サブタイトル　備考

4月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『闇の中の消失』
- 『歩鳥初体験』
- 『お姉さんといっしょ』
- 『笑ってごらん』(コタツ片付け)
- 『大怪獣尾谷校に現わる』

■福沢顔にケガ
■ユキコ勧誘を始める

5月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『歩鳥ファーストキス』
- 『未来の夢』
- 『修学旅行』
- 『うそつきリッちゃんの亡霊』

■修学旅行(以降 木彫りの熊)
■コンビニGWフェア

6月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『エピローグ』
- 『ユキコの剣』
- 『呪いのビデオ』
- 『Detective girls final』
- 『大事件』

■ナメ子と対決 男女の関係はどうにもならない
■紺先輩イギリスへ旅行 6／5から一週間くらい

7月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『虚』
- 『紺先輩スペシャル』(冒頭)
- 『紺先輩スペシャル』
- 『至福の店フォーエバー』

■7月一杯でタッツンがバイトを辞め、メイド喫茶終わる
■涼ちんの家・兄登場

8月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『歩鳥撃沈』
- 『悪』
- 『蒼秋 夜空に散る』
- 『牡丹灯籠』

■歩鳥 目覚まし時計 買い換える
(ハイウッドTシャツ終わり)

9月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『嵐と共に去りぬ』
- 『夢幻小説』(夢？パート)
- 『嵐山家 家事担う』
- 『張り込み』
- 『少女A』(最終話)

■台風XX号(9／8)
■学園祭用シナリオ執筆開閉

10月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『続・夢現小説』

■学園祭(『少女A』上演)
■この時点で亀井堂と涼ちんは面識がない 名前は知ってる

11月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『ドッペルゲンガー』
- 『さよなら難題』

12月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

- 『夢幻小説』(冒頭とラスト)

1月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

2月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

3月

SOREMACHI　TIMELINE

■歩鳥 卒業式

1年目

◎タケル　3年2組
◎ユキコ　1年1組

4月

SOREMACHI

- （松田巡査玉川交番に配属）
- （回想　松田と顔合わせ）
- ●『嵐山ジョセフィーヌ様』
- ●『消された事件』
- ●『ナイトウォーカー』

TIMELINE

- ■歩鳥入学式 4/8
- ■婆ちゃん腰をやられる
- ■初メイド服
- ■お花見

5月

SOREMACHI

- ●『卒業式』
- ●『至福の店ビフォア』
- ●『至福の店アフター』
- ●『歩鳥と謎の王国』
- ●『セクハラ裁判』
- ●『闇に棲む声』（解決編）

TIMELINE

- ■事件編は4月以前

6月

SOREMACHI

- ●『目』

TIMELINE

- ●『ロック』

7月

SOREMACHI

- ●『愛の逃避行』
- ●『嵐山忍法帳』
- ●『辰野トシテは砕けない』
- ●『宇宙冒険ロマン』
- ●『ホワイトデビル』

TIMELINE

8月

SOREMACHI

- ●『飛行少年飛行少女群像劇』
- ●『二少女漂流記』（8／8）

TIMELINE

- ■荒井クリーニング デザインエプロン作る

9月

SOREMACHI

- ●『看板娘が大人気』

TIMELINE

- ■タツツンと呼び始める
- ■「鬼面ライガーしぐれ」放映開始

10月

SOREMACHI

- ●『モテない紳士』

TIMELINE

- ●『犬事件』
- ■学園祭

11月

SOREMACHI

TIMELINE

- ●『ワン・オア・エイト』
- ■辰野「鳥山さん」から徐々に「あんた」「歩鳥」と呼ぶようになる

12月

SOREMACHI

- ●『恋の方程式』
- ●『まもれ　サンタの夢』
- ●『カマボコボヨンボヨン』
- ●『まぬけな大晦日の過ごし方』

TIMELINE

1月

SOREMACHI

- ●『猫少年』（紺先輩初登場）
- ●『俺達は機械じゃねぇ』（回想）

TIMELINE

2月

SOREMACHI

- ●『それ町サスペンス劇場』
- ●『ヒーローショー』
- 2／16　真田16歳誕生日
- ●『エビの恩返し』
- ●『それでも町は廻っている』

TIMELINE

- ■ゼリー島殺人事件 執筆&応募（約2週間）

3月

SOREMACHI

- （歩鳥　事故・入院）
- ■落選のお知らせ

TIMELINE

サブタイトル

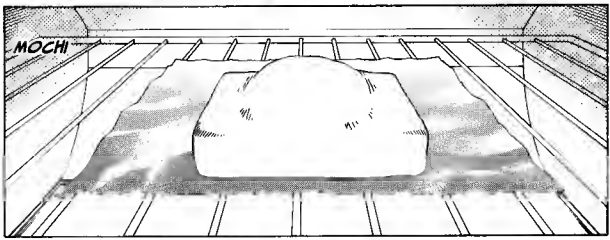
備考

年表

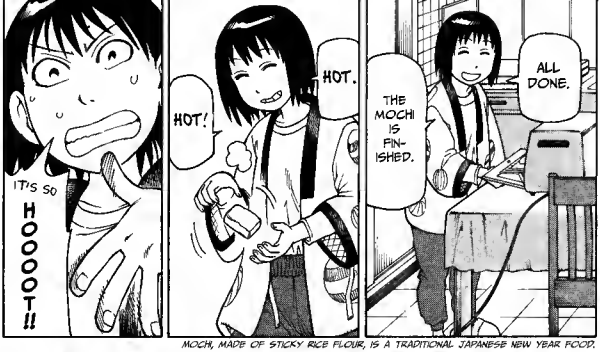
「それ町」劇作の際参考にしてきたタイムテーブルです。確実に正確とは言い切れませんが、各話のおおよその時期の目安にして下さい。

SOREMACHI MAP
OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK
MASAKAZU ISHIGURO PRESENTS

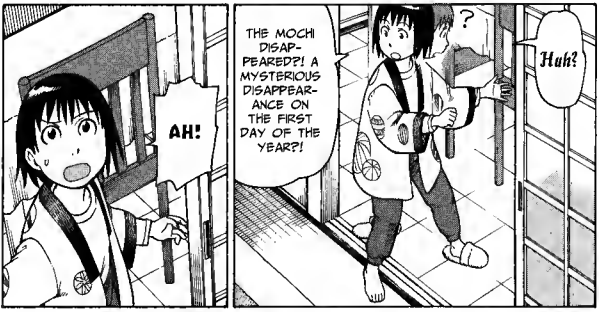
WREATH: WELCOME, SPRING



CHAPTER 34



MOCHI, MADE OF STICKY RICE FLOUR, IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE NEW YEAR FOOD.

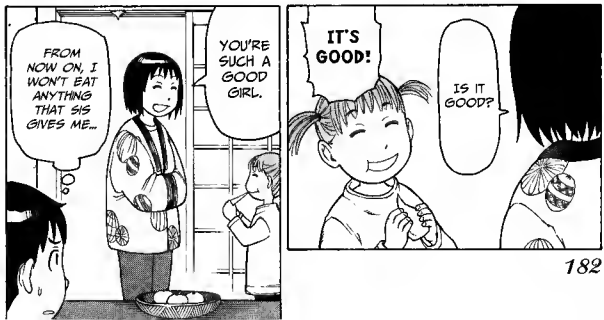


CHAPTER 34
A DUMB WAY TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S

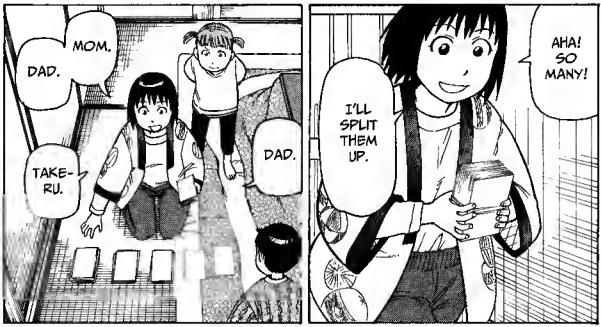
EGGPLANT, AS SEEN ON HOTORI'S KIMONO, IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW YEAR IN JAPAN. IT IS CONSIDERED LUCKY IF YOUR FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR HAS EGGPLANTS, FALCONS, AND MT. FUJI

.....
CAN I WIPE IT OFF?
UH OH... THIS SUCKS...

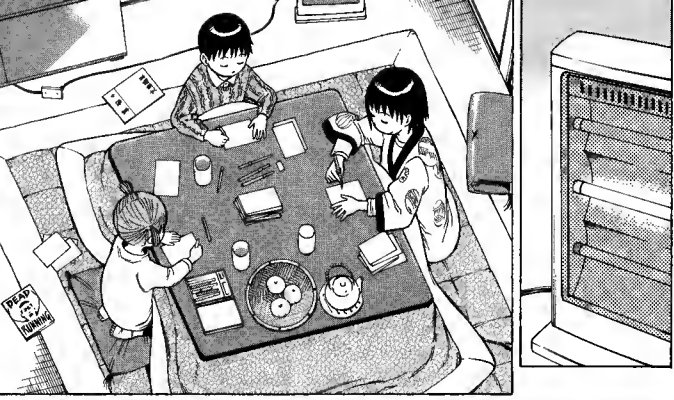
YEP!!
YUKIKO, DO YOU WANT MOCHI?


FROM NOW ON, I WON'T EAT ANYTHING THAT SIS GIVES ME...
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL.
IT'S GOOD!
IS IT GOOD?

MAILBOX: ARASHIYAMA

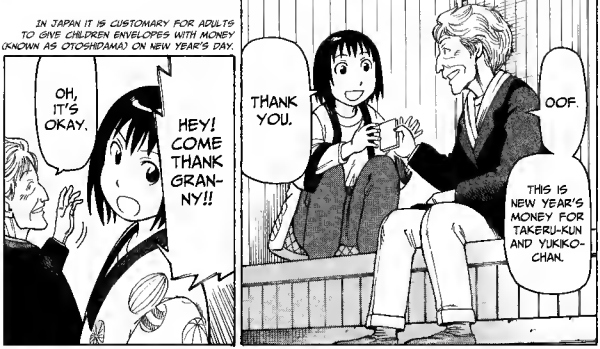


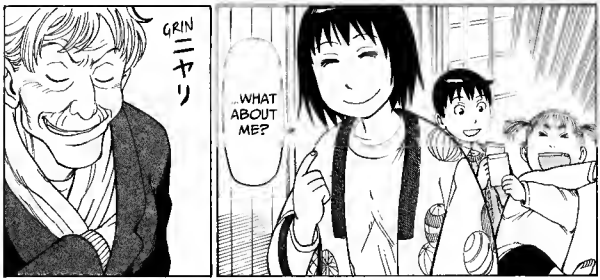
HEY! THERE'S ONE FROM MR. MORIAKI!
I NEED TO SEND HIM ONE, TOO.
...AM I THE ONLY STUDENT WHO RECEIVED ONE?
OH, I GOT A CARD FROM MR. MORIAKI.
HE'S SUCH A NICE PERSON.
WHAT?! I GOT A CARD FROM MR. MORIAKI?
BREAM
MAKE SURE YOU SEND A REPLY TO MR. MORIAKI.
I KNOW!
—AND SO ON, WITH THE REMAINING CLASS MEMBERS ABBREVIATED.


PEAT
IS
RUNNING

COM-
ING!
EXCUSE
ME—
KNOCK
KNOCK

SHE AND
DAD WENT
DOWN
TO THE
SHRINE.
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.
IS YOUR
MOM
AROUND?
HEY,
GRANNY.
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.


IN JAPAN IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR ADULTS TO GIVE CHILDREN ENVELOPES WITH MONEY (KNOWN AS OTOSHIDAMA) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
OOF.
THIS IS NEW YEAR'S MONEY FOR TAKERU-KUN AND YUKIKO-CHAN.
THANK YOU.
HEY! COME THANK GRANNY!!
OH, IT'S OKAY.

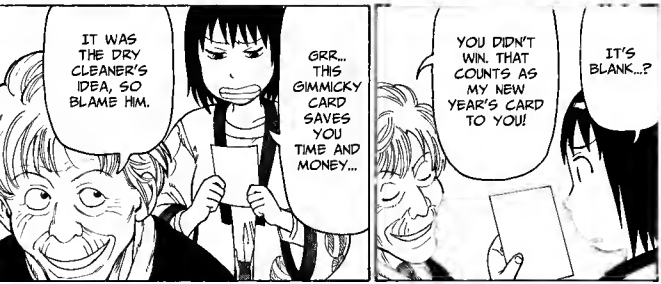


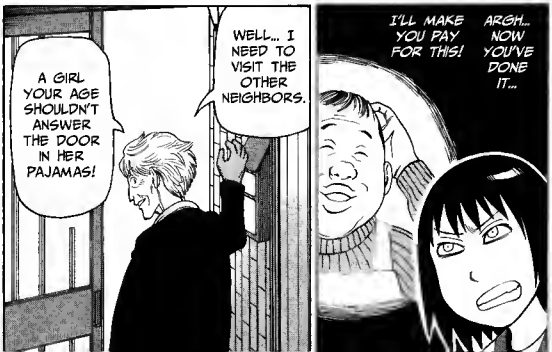
POSTCARDS: SEASIDE

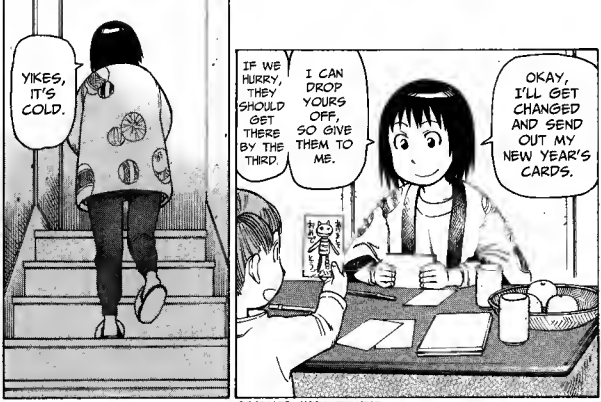
ABOUT ¥100

PICK YOUR POISON! IF YOU PICK THE WINNING CARD, YOU GET 10,000 YEN! OTHERWISE, YOU GET NOTHING.
NEW YEAR'S CARD AND MONEY COMBINED IN ONE!!
シーサイド

THIS ONE!
HMM.
...GULP.


IT WAS THE DRY CLEANER'S IDEA, SO BLAME HIM.
GRR... THIS GIMMICKY CARD SAVES YOU TIME AND MONEY...
YOU DIDN'T WIN. THAT COUNTS AS MY NEW YEAR'S CARD TO YOU!
IT'S BLANK...?


A GIRL YOUR AGE SHOULDN'T ANSWER THE DOOR IN HER PAJAMAS!
WELL... I NEED TO VISIT THE OTHER NEIGHBORS.
I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS!
ARGH... NOW YOU'VE DONE IT...

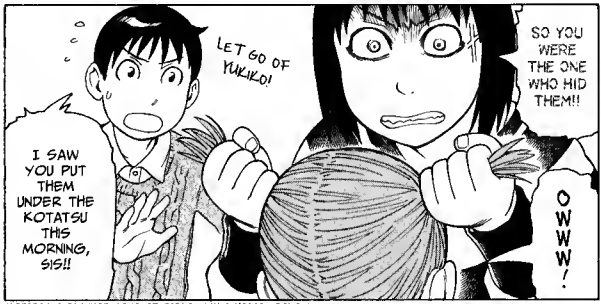

YIKES, IT'S COLD.
IF WE HURRY, THEY SHOULD GET THERE BY THE THIRD.
I CAN DROP YOURS OFF, SO GIVE THEM TO ME.
OKAY, I'LL GET CHANGED AND SEND OUT MY NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

POSTCARD: HAPPY NEW YEAR

NO WAY... THEY COULDN'T HAVE JUST WALKED OFF BY THEMSELVES.
HUH?
M-MY JEANS ARE GONE!!
A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR?
OH, WELL.

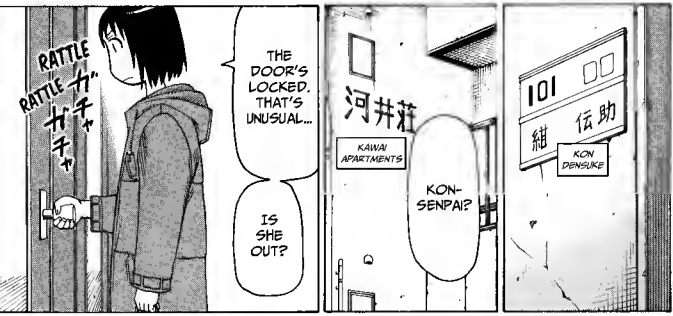
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHA—
I'LL WEAR THE LEATHER PANTS THAT KON-SENPAI GAVE ME.
THEY'LL PROBABLY LOOK FUNNY ON ME...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
TOO LONG.
TOO TIGHT.
CAN'T BUTTON UP.
THAT CHEAP-SKATE!
HMPH—
SHE GAVE ME THESE PANTS BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER FIT!!

ARE THESE YOUR JEANS?
IT'S SO COLD, SO COLD, SO COLD!
UGH ...
I CAN'T FIND MY JEANS, SO I CAN'T MAIL OUR NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.



KOTATSU: A BLANKET-COVERED TABLE WITH A HEATER BELOW.

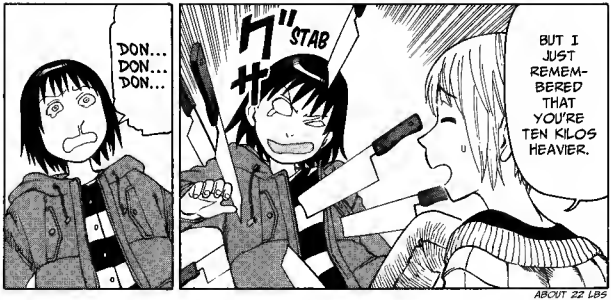
I'LL RETURN THESE PANTS WHILE I'M AT IT.
CLANG
コトン


RATTLE RATTLE
ガチャガチャ
THE DOOR'S LOCKED. THAT'S UNUSUAL...
IS SHE OUT?
河井荘
KAWAI APARTMENTS
KON-SENPAI?
101
紺伝助
KON DENSUKE

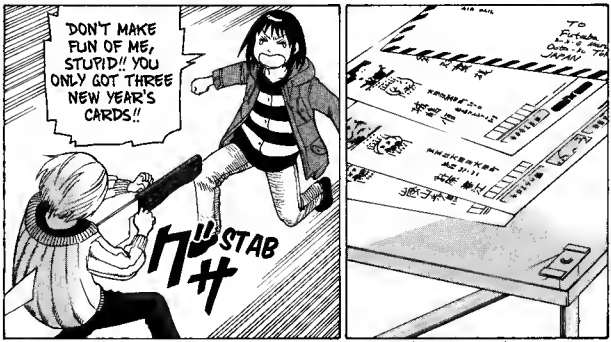
SLANTY-EYED BLONDE!! BUCK-TEETH!
GOOFU-TABA!!
KON FU-TABA!!
HAHA!
KON-SEN-PAI!!!
ドンドン
POUND POUND
KON-SEN-PAI!!!

THE TRUCK FOR COLLECTING ELECTRONIC WASTE IS HERE.
TURN
くるり
助
カチャ…
CLICK…
I WAS STANDING BEHIND THE DOOR, WAITING TO SEE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY… WELL, COME ON IN.
YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
..SO, EXPLAIN THAT "BUCK-TEETH" COMMENT AT THE END, OKAY?
IS THAT WHAT I SAID…? I WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO HOW YOU KIND OF HAVE FANGS…
I GOT TOO EXCITED, SO I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY…
ANYWAY, I BELIEVE YOU OWE ME AN APOLOGY.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THESE PANTS?!
THEY'RE TOO LONG!!
THEY'LL BE FINE ONCE YOU'RE WEARING SHOES.
REALLY? THEN SHOW ME!!

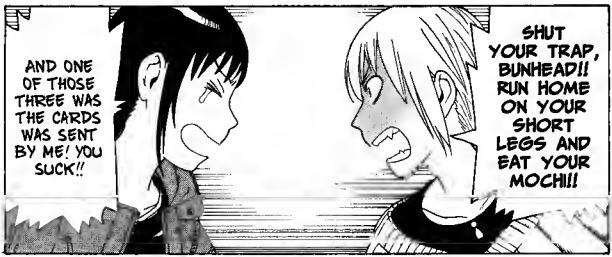
SEE?
ONCE YOU PUT ON SHOES, THEY'RE THE RIGHT LENGTH.
SLENDER
スラ
...A PER-FECT FIT!!
OH?
THEY DIDN'T FIT YOU?
HUH?
ER, NOT...
...EX-ACTLY...
WELL, I THOUGHT THEY WOULD FIT YOU, SINCE WE'RE THE SAME HEIGHT...



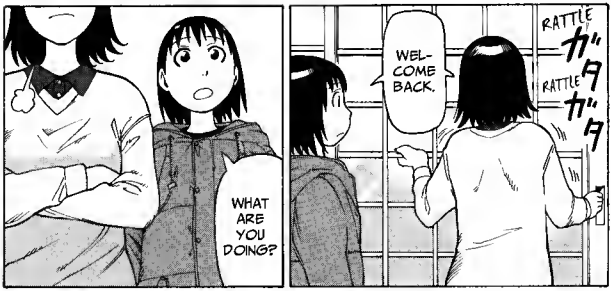
ABOUT 22 LBS



POSTCARDS: JOSHIMA SATORU / HARIBARA HARUE / ARASHIYAMA HOTORI


AND ONE OF THOSE THREE WAS THE CARDS WAS SENT BY ME! YOU SUCK!!
SHUT YOUR TRAP, BUNHEAD!! RUN HOME ON YOUR SHORT LEGS AND EAT YOUR MOCHI!!

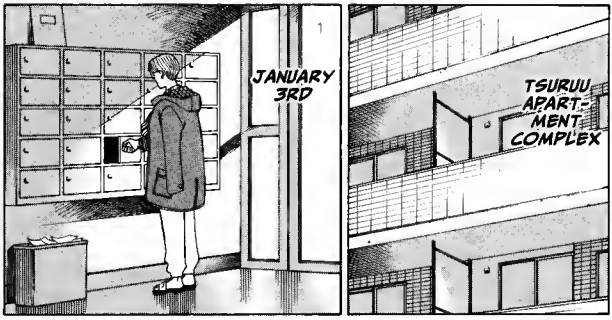
I'M HOME.
MOM AND DAD ARE BACK.


RATTLE ガタ
RATTLE ガタ
WELCOME BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M HAVING TROUBLE OPENING AND CLOSING THIS DOOR.
OH. I WONDER WHY.
AH!

I FORGOT TO CLEAN OFF THE MOCHI THAT FLEW UP THERE!!
THE DOOR IS ACTING UP...
...BECAUSE OF THE MOCHI THAT'S STUCK UP THERE!!
LOOK, MOM. THIS DOOR WORKS FINE.
WE CAN JUST USE THIS HALF INSTEAD.
FORGET ABOUT THE DOOR THAT'S STUCK.
A DOOR THAT CAN'T BE OPENED IS JUST A WALL.
STUCK?! IT'S STUCK?!
DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S STUCK?!
SIS...

SOB.
YOU SHOULD CONFESS.
I SAW EVERY-THING...
I DID IT.
YOU SEE, THE MOCHI...
I'M SICK OF MOCHI...!
THAT'S CALLED BEING IRRESPON-SIBLE!!
I JUST FORGOT TO CLEAN UP THE MOCHI...
YOU ALWAYS FORGET TO FINISH WHAT YOU START!!



POSTCARD: HAPPY

CHAPTER 34 / END

AFTERWORD

VOLUME 4 FOLLOWED THE THEME OF MAINTAINING YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.
OUR LIVES ARE SUSTAINED BY MANY MINOR DETAILS THAT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. THESE ARE DETAILS THAT WE USUALLY DON'T EVEN NOTICE, SUCH AS PERFORMING TEDIOUS TASKS, BOOTLICKING, GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY, OR FOLLOWING RULES, WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE. THAT IS WHY WE CAN BE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE WHO WE MIGHT CONSIDER RIVALS AND WANT TO COMPLETELY CRUSH.

HOWEVER, OUR EVERYDAY LIVES ARE ALWAYS IN DANGER. THE TOWNSPEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES.

WHY DID HOTORI CRY?
I BELIEVE IT WAS MORE THAN SIMPLE PITY FOR THE SANADAS. SHE FINALLY REALIZED THAT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES MUST BE SUSTAINED BY HARD-WORKING INDIVIDUALS.

AND SO, HOTORI WAS ABLE TO SPEND HER NEW YEAR'S DAY IN RELATIVE PEACE.

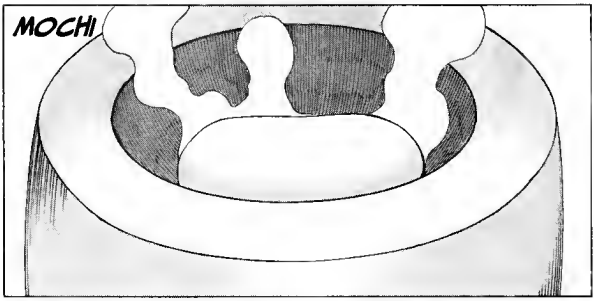
FEBRUARY 22, 2008
石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

SPECIAL THANKS

ASSISTANT TSUNAMINO YUU
TSUBANA

HELPER ARI

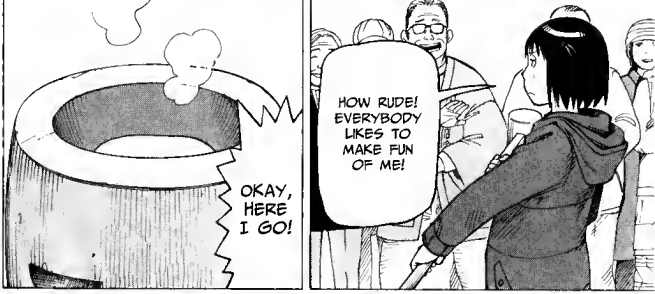
NEW YEAR'S
MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT

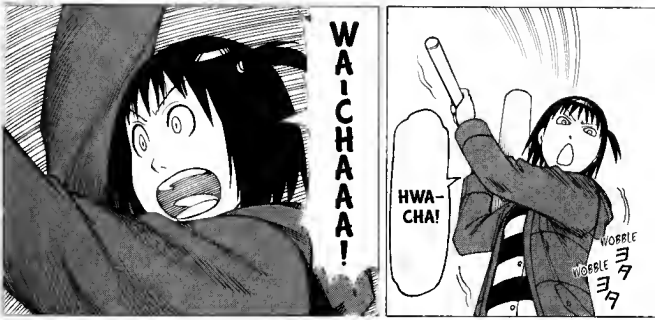

MOCHI

HOTORI

CHAPTER 66
BURN, HOTORI

FALTER
じり
じり
RUSTLE
サッ
WELL... BECAUSE... YOU'RE HOT OR!
WHY IS EVERY-ONE BACKING AWAY?


HOW RUDE! EVERYBODY LIKES TO MAKE FUN OF ME!
OKAY, HERE I GO!

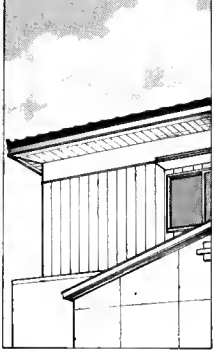

HWA-CHA!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WAICHAAA!

ゴ
キ
C
L
A
AA
NNA
G

WOOOO ウウー
CLANG カンカン CLANG
CLANG カン CLANG
THAT WAS CLOSE, MASUYO. YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN HURT IF YOU HADN'T MOVED.
MY HANDS WON'T STOP SHAKING...
WOOOO ウウー
I WARNED YOU... SOMEONE HAD TO CALL A FIRE TRUCK.
SNIFF.
CLANG カンカン CLANG
ANYTHING CAN BECOME A WEAPON WHEN PLACED IN THE WRONG HANDS.
IN-DEED...

JACKET: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT

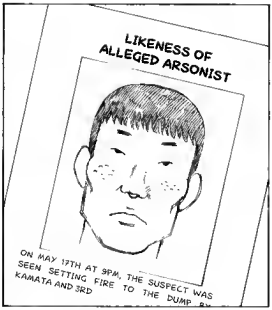
OH, THE FIRE TRUCK PASSED BY... IT WASN'T FOR US.
OBVI-OUSLY NOT!!
ANYWAY, IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HEARING FIRE TRUCKS A LOT RECENTLY.
WOOOO ウウー...
CLANG カンカン...
I NEED EVERYONE ON NIGHT WATCH TO GATHER 'ROUND.



OROSHI MOCHI: STICKY RICE CAKE SERVED WITH GRATED DAIKON RADISH.

THERE WAS A FIRE IN A PARKING LOT OF THE SHOUWA AREA...
HUH ...?
ACTU-ALLY...
I'VE COME WITH SOME BAD NEWS.
THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE SUSPICIOUS FIRES RECENTLY.
YES... THAT'S WHAT WE THINK.
I'M MAKING THE ROUNDS AND TELLING EVERYONE TO BE CAREFUL.
IT APPEARS THAT IT WAS LIKELY ARSON.
SOME-ONE SET A FIRE?!
JUST TO BE SAFE, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THIS...
TO BE SAFE...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
SO THAT'S WHY THERE WAS A FIRE TRUCK...
FORTU-NATELY, THE FIRE ONLY DAMAGED THE ROOF OF A GARAGE.

!
THIS IS THE ARSONIST...

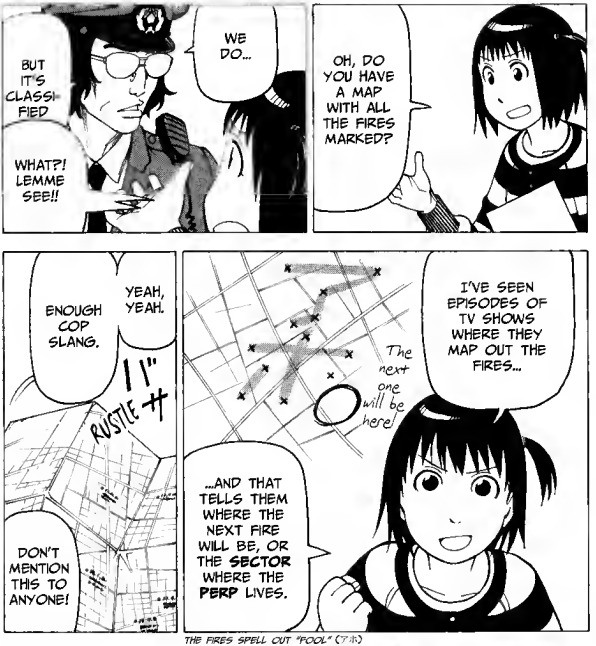

LIKENESS OF ALLEGED ARSONIST
ON MAY 17TH AT 9PM, THE SUSPECT WAS SEEN SETTING FIRE TO THE DUMP B

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
SEE? SEE?! THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE YOU THE PICTURE!

I'M ON PATROL TONIGHT WITH THE NIGHT WATCH.

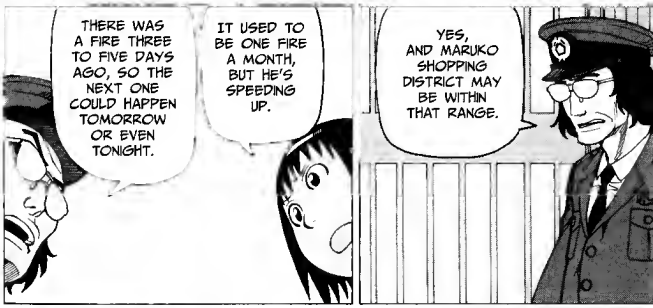
O-OKAY...
...THEN SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, SURREPTITIOUSLY CONTACT THE POLICE!
IF, BY SOME CHANCE, YOU FIND HIM...

DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS! DON'T INTERFERE!
DON'T TRY TO CATCH THE ARSONIST!


OH, DO YOU HAVE A MAP WITH ALL THE FIRES MARKED?
WE DO...
BUT IT'S CLASSIFIED
WHAT?! LEMME SEE!!
I'VE SEEN EPISODES OF TV SHOWS WHERE THEY MAP OUT THE FIRES...
The next one will be here!
...AND THAT TELLS THEM WHERE THE NEXT FIRE WILL BE, OR THE SECTOR WHERE THE PERP LIVES.
YEAH, YEAH.
ENOUGH COP SLANG.
11"
RUSTLE
DON'T MENTION THIS TO ANYONE!

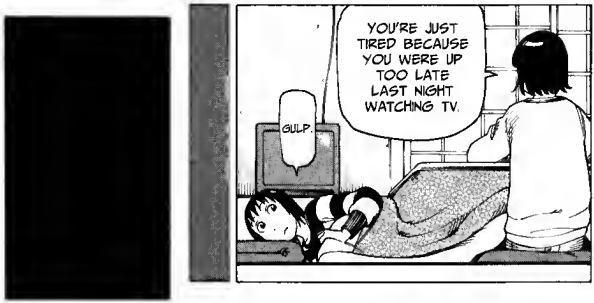
THE FIRES SPELL OUT "POOL" (7-11)

WAS THE OLDEST FIRE A YEAR AGO IN THE DRY PART OF THE TAMA RIVER?
AS FAR AS WE KNOW...
AN ABAN-DONED CAR WAS SET ON FIRE.
A MONTH LATER, IT WAS A PLAY-GROUND IN THE PARK.
AFTER THAT, IT WAS A PORTA POTTY, THEN A BIKE SEAT, THEN A DUMP...
LOOKS LIKE HE BEGAN EXPANDING HIS RANGE.


YES, AND MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT MAY BE WITHIN THAT RANGE.
IT USED TO BE ONE FIRE A MONTH, BUT HE'S SPEEDING UP.
THERE WAS A FIRE THREE TO FIVE DAYS AGO, SO THE NEXT ONE COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW OR EVEN TONIGHT.

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS MAP IS GOING TO HELP MUCH...
SEE? WEL-COME TO REALITY.
WELL, PATROL AWAY THEN.

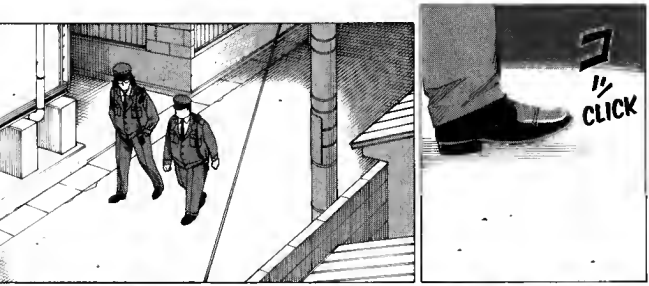
OKAY.
I'LL TAKE A NAP TO PREPARE FOR THE PATROL TONIGHT.
YAAWN


YOU'RE JUST TIRED BECAUSE YOU WERE UP TOO LATE LAST NIGHT WATCHING TV.
GULP.

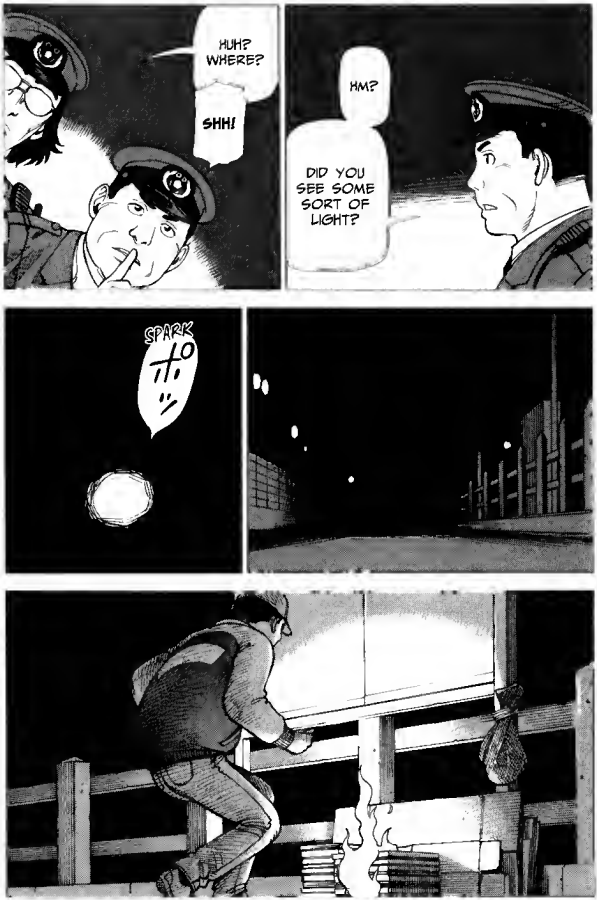
OKAY, LET'S HEAD OUT.
I'M READY TO GO.

WA-CHAAA!
LET'S BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF THIS FIRE-HAPPY BASTARD.
...WE'LL CATCH THE ARSON-IST!
OKAY! AND WHILE WE'RE ON PATROL...
YEAH!
JACKETS: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT
YEAH, SHE MUST HAVE WATCHED THE BRUCE LEE MOVIE THAT WAS ON LAST NIGHT.
SHE'S BEEN MAKING FUNNY NOISES ALL DAY...
WA!
WA-TA!
SHE'S SO EASY TO READ.
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FIRES!
CLANG
カン
CLANG
カンカン
CLANG

A SINGLE MATCH AND A FIRE CAN CATCH!
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FIRE!
DON'T TURN OFF THE FIRE UNTIL EVERY-THING'S FULLY COOKED!
HOTORI-CHAN, DON'T CONFUSE PEOPLE!
CLANG CLANG カンカン
CLANG


コ
CLICK

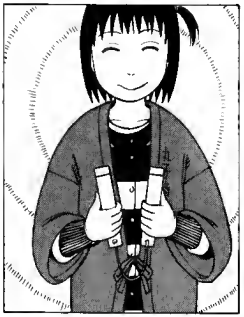
OH, SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE BUSY.
WATCH OUT FOR FIRE!
CLANG カンカン CLANG


HUH? WHERE?
SHH!
HM?
DID YOU SEE SOME SORT OF LIGHT?
SPARK

!!
HEY!
STOP!
MA-
TSUDA,
GET
HIM!
BAS-
TARD!

HEY, LET ME TRY THAT.

CLANG
CLANG
カン
カン



I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT TRADI-TION BEFORE!
ACCORDING TO MARUKO TRADITION, ONLY ADULTS GET TO USE THESE.

WHOA! HEY! DON'T SWING IT AROUND!!
SPIN
くる
SPIN
くる

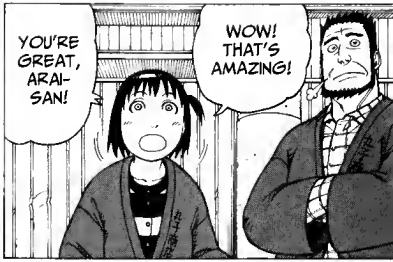
HWA-CHA!!

SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN ITCHING TO TRY THAT AFTER WATCHING THE MOVIE.
NO, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THIS.
OW!
WHA–
THWACK
ビシ
WHAT'S THIS?
MAN...
WANT ME TO SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE?
AL-RIGHTY THEN.
YOU KNOW HOW THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE IN THE CLASS WITH A COMPLETELY WORTHLESS TALENT?
THAT'S HIM IN A NUT-SHELL...
POSE
ピタリ

SNAP
SNAP

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHA-CHA!

I CAN GO FASTER WITH REAL NUNCHUKS!!


YOU'RE GREAT, ARAI-SAN!
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING!

OOPS.
THE STRING SNAP-PED!

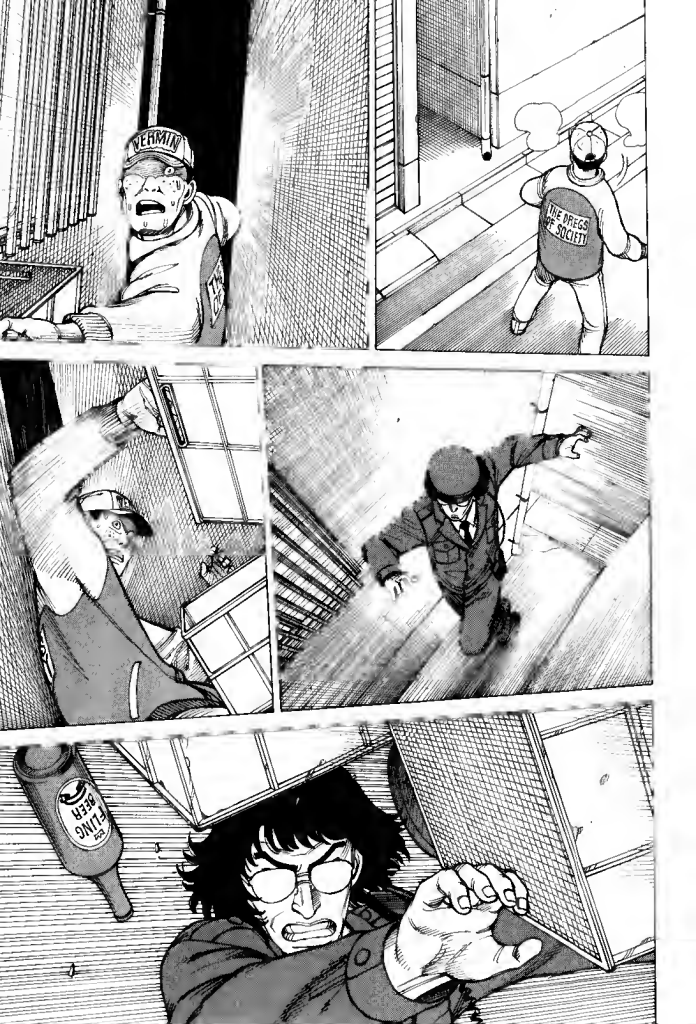
TWANG
WHOOSH

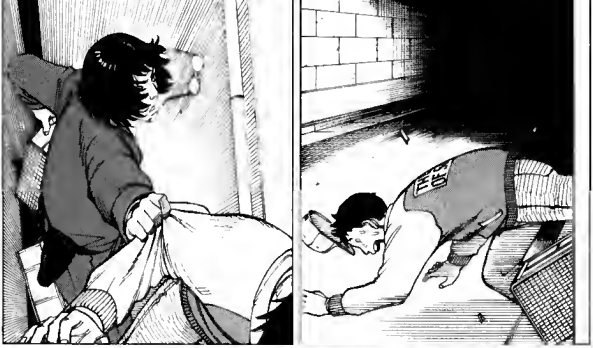
I GUESS THIS WASN'T DESIGNED TO BE SWUNG AROUND.
WHERE'D IT GO?
YOU GOT TOO COCKY.
OH, THERE IT IS.....

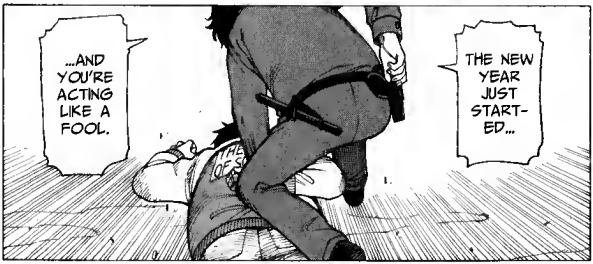
DAMN! SLIPPERY LITTLE BASTARD ...!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

HE'S TOO DAMN FAST!

STOP RIGHT THERE, BAS-TARD!!
キキ SCREECH
HUFF!
VERMIN
HUFF!
DON'T RUN AWAY!
HUFF!
HUFF!
WAIT UP, KOBU-HEI!
VERMIN
HUFF!
HUFF!

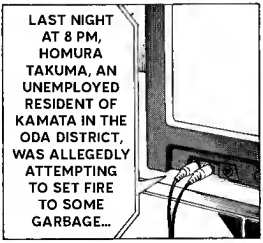

VERMIN
THE DREGS OF SOCIETY!
ELING BEER

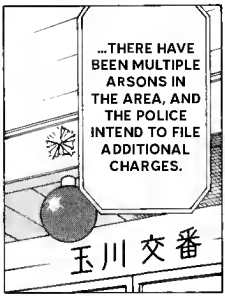



THE NEW YEAR JUST START-ED...
...AND YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A FOOL.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ARSON. DON'T TRY TO RESIST.

NEWSPAPER: NEW YEAR


LAST NIGHT AT 8 PM, HOMURA TAKUMA, AN UNEMPLOYED RESIDENT OF KAMATA IN THE ODA DISTRICT, WAS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO SET FIRE TO SOME GARBAGE...



BUILDING: TAMAGAWA STATION

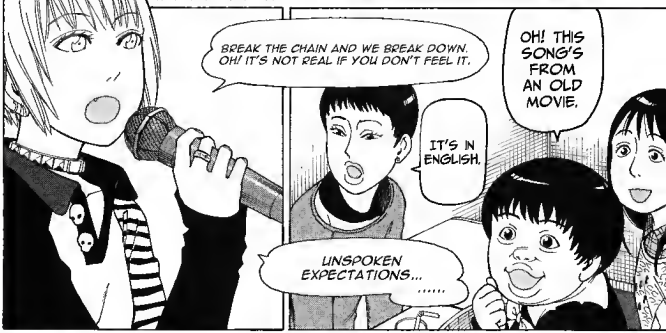
DID YOU LET HOTORI-CHAN AND THE BOYS KNOW THAT THE ARSONIST WAS CAUGHT?
YOU WERE LUCKY.
HE ENDED UP GETTING STUCK.
THEN HE TRIED TO PASS THROUGH A NARROW ALLEY BETWEEN HOUSES.
BUT SUDDENLY, HE FROZE IN PLACE.
THIS WAY, THEY'LL WORK HARDER.
OTHERWISE, I'LL TELL THEM AFTER THEY FINISH THEIR PATROL.
NO, THEY'LL FIND OUT WHEN THEY WATCH THE NEWS.
HOTORI-CHAN, YOU'RE GOING TO CONFUSE PEOPLE!
KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING!
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FIRE!
CLANG
カンカンカン
CLANG
CLANG

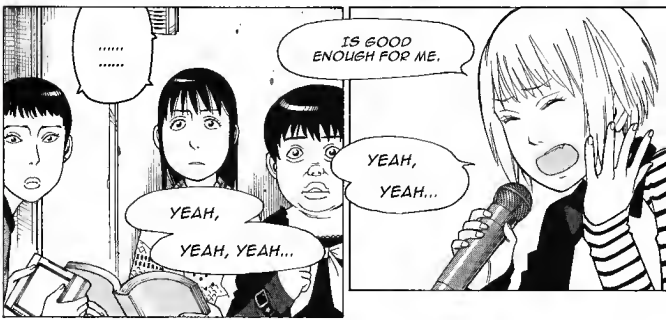
CHAPTER 66 / END

MYSTERY NOVEL
I JUST NEED A MOTIVE AND A GIMMICK TO WRITE A WHOLE NOVEL.....
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'RE STARTING FROM SCRATCH?

CHAPTER 94
A·KO·GA·RE LONGING

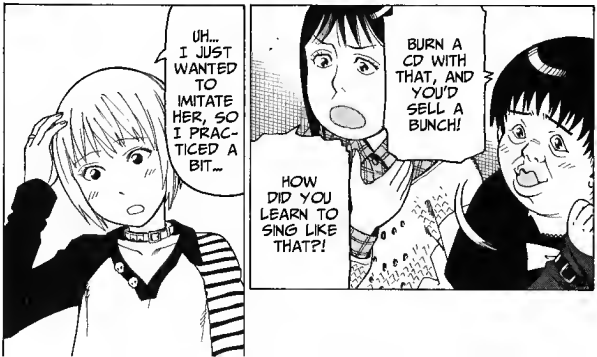
SIGN: KARAOKE JODEL


BREAK THE CHAIN AND WE BREAK DOWN. OH! IT'S NOT REAL IF YOU DON'T FEEL IT.
OH! THIS SONG'S FROM AN OLD MOVIE.
TV
IT'S IN ENGLISH.
UNSPOKEN EXPECTATIONS...
.....

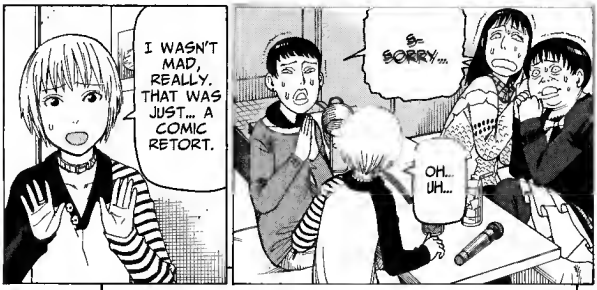


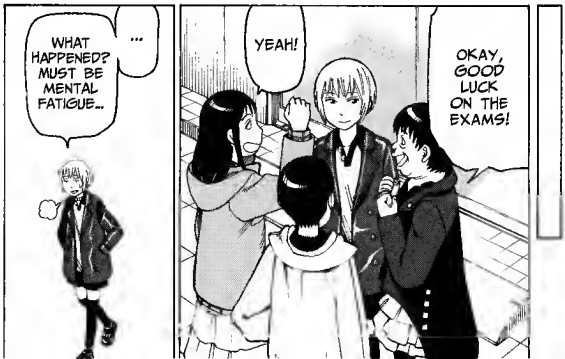
POSTER: PILES OF FRIES

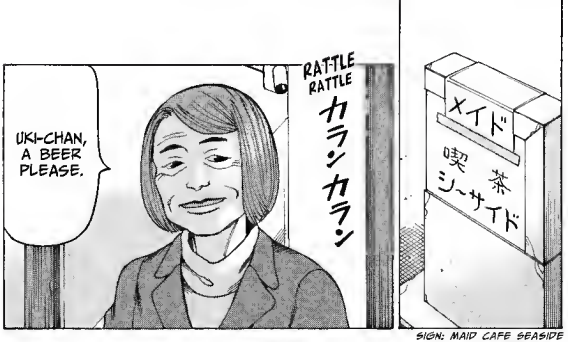
I STILL HAVE GOOSE-BUMPS!
NO, YOU'RE EVEN PAST THE POINT WHERE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY WHETHER YOU'RE GOOD OR NOT!
YOU'RE JUST TOO GOOD!
NO WAY, NO WAY!


UH... I JUST WANTED TO IMITATE HER, SO I PRAC-TICED A BIT...
HOW DID YOU LEARN TO SING LIKE THAT?!
BURN A CD WITH THAT, AND YOU'D SELL A BUNCH!

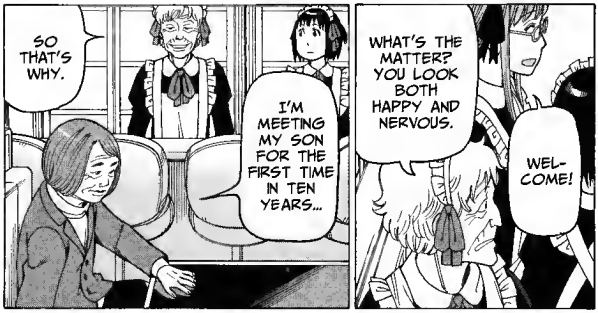
!
QUIT THAT "BY YOURSELF" STUFF!
WOW, BY YOURSELF?! NOT WITH ANY LESSONS, JUST ALL BY YOURSELF?


I WASN'T MAD, REALLY. THAT WAS JUST... A COMIC RETORT.
S-SORRY...
OH... UH...


...
WHAT HAPPENED? MUST BE MENTAL FATIGUE...
YEAH!
OKAY, GOOD LUCK ON THE EXAMS!



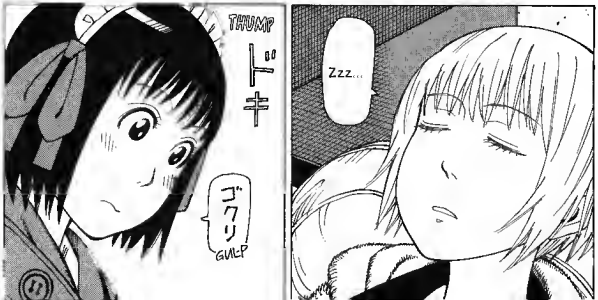
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

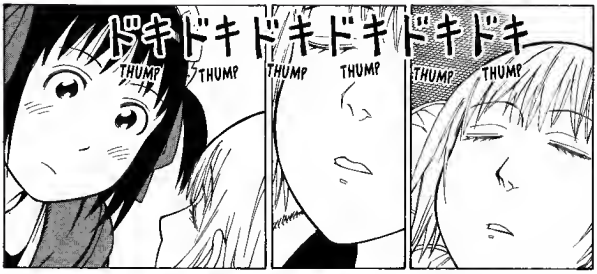


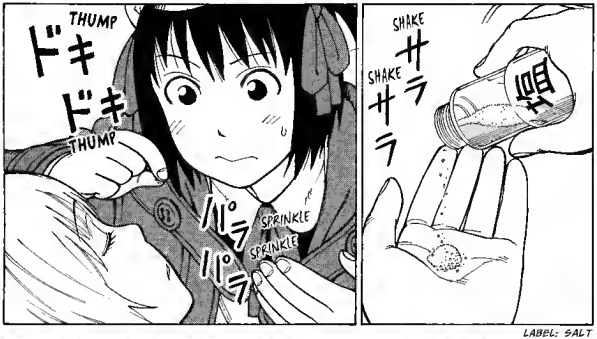
I'LL GIVE YOU A TAP WHENEVER I CATCH YOU LOSING THAT EXPRESSION.
GOOD IDEA!
I'LL MAKE THIS FACE SO YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT I'M THINKING.
SCARY...
WHEN YOU GET TO BE AN OLD WOMAN, YOU CAN TELL A LOT BY LOOKING AT SOMEONE'S FACE.
AMAZ-ING, CHIEF MAID.

WE DON'T GET ALONG POORLY, BUT THAT BOY JUST WON'T COME NEAR THE HOUSE...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN TEN YEARS.
YOU COULD MEET AT YOUR OWN HOME.
WE'VE ARRANGED TO MEET HERE, SO BRING HIM SOME CURRY WHEN HE ARRIVES.
YOU'RE FINALLY MEETING HIM AGAIN. DO IT SOBER.
A JAB, YOU MEAN. JAB.
I THINK I'LL START OUR TALK WITH A LIGHT UPPERCUT.
MY SON IS...
WHO ARE YOU CONFUSING HIM WITH?
MAKE BOOMERANGS AND SELL THEM ON THE STREETS?
WHAT DOES YOUR SON DO, AGAIN?

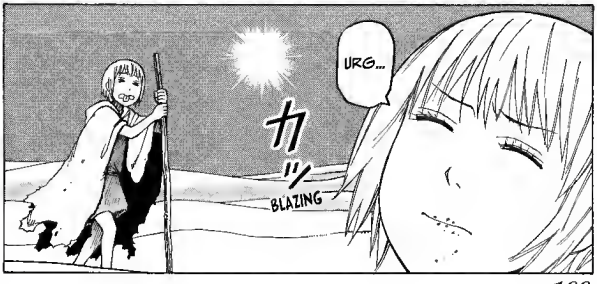
BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS




ドキドキドキドキドキドキ
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


THUMP
ドキ
ドキ
THUMP
パラ
パラ
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SHAKE
サラ
SHAKE
サラ
塩

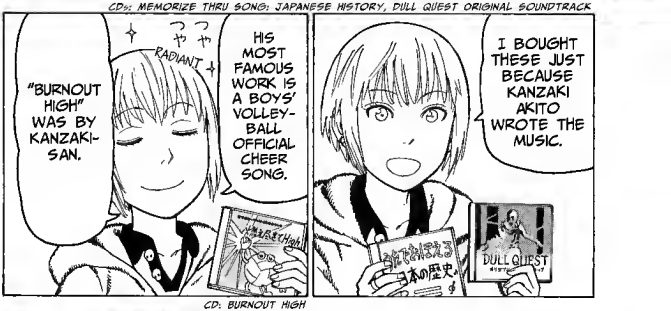
LABEL: SALT


URG...
カッ
BLAZING

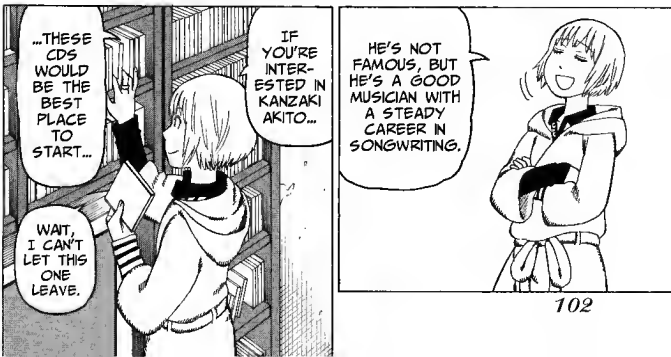
AB-PUH-PUH!
GOOD MORON-ING, SENPAI!
IF THAT WERE POISON, YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
YOU DIDN'T LOCK THE DOOR...
WHY'D YOU FEED ME SALT?!
WITH YOUR LOW BLOOD PRESSURE, I THOUGHT IT'D WAKE YOU UP...
BY THE WAY...
...DO YOU KNOW A KANZAKI AKITO?
OH.
DANG! I NEVER IMAGINED I'D HEAR YOU NAME-DROP A MANIAC LIKE HIM!
KANZAKI AKITO USED TO PLAY THE SYNTHS...
...IN A SEMI-POPULAR BAND, ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO.

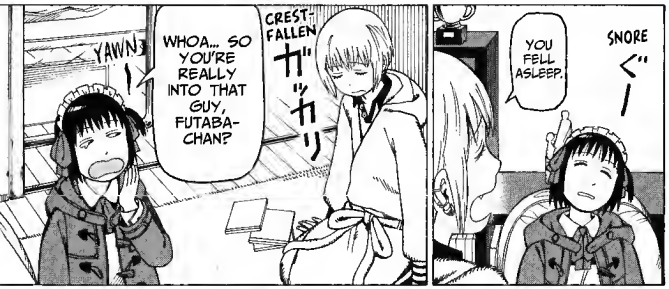
HE WAS A REAL SCENE-SHIFTING MUSICIAN, EVEN COMPOSED SONGS FOR MUSICALS.
HE'D BE ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD NOW.
AFTER THE BAND BROKE UP, HE WROTE SONGS FOR IDOLS AS A SOLO CAREER.

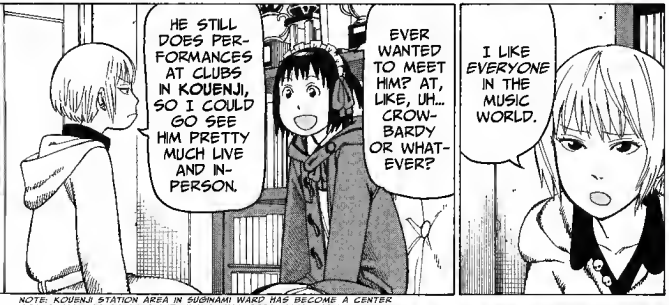
CDs: MEMORIZE THRU SONG: JAPANESE HISTORY, DULL QUEST ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK


"BURNOUT HIGH" WAS BY KANZAKI-SAN.
つや つや RADIANT
HIS MOST FAMOUS WORK IS A BOYS' VOLLEY-BALL OFFICIAL CHEER SONG.
I BOUGHT THESE JUST BECAUSE KANZAKI AKITO WROTE THE MUSIC.
DULL QUEST

CD: BURNOUT HIGH

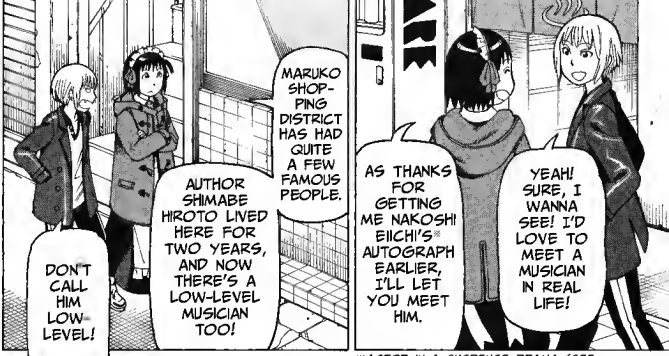

...THESE CDS WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE TO START...
WAIT, I CAN'T LET THIS ONE LEAVE.
IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED IN KANZAKI AKITO...
HE'S NOT FAMOUS, BUT HE'S A GOOD MUSICIAN WITH A STEADY CAREER IN SONGWRITING.



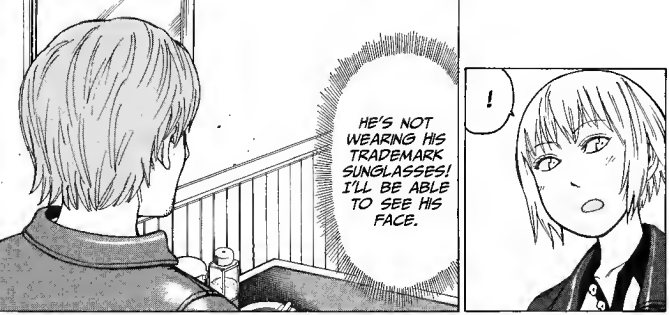

HE STILL DOES PER-FORMANCES AT CLUBS IN KOUENJI, SO I COULD GO SEE HIM PRETTY MUCH LIVE AND IN-PERSON.
EVER WANTED TO MEET HIM? AT, LIKE, UH... CROW-BARDY OR WHAT-EVER?
I LIKE EVERYONE IN THE MUSIC WORLD.

NOTE: KOUENJI STATION AREA IN SUGINAMI WARD HAS BECOME A CENTER FOR SMALL RESTAURANTS AND CLUBS THAT OFFER LIVE MUSIC

BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS

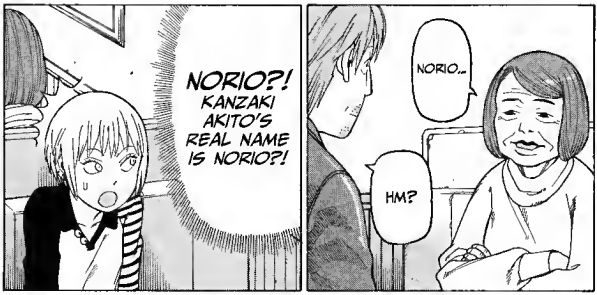

YEAH! SURE, I WANNA SEE! I'D LOVE TO MEET A MUSICIAN IN REAL LIFE!
AS THANKS FOR GETTING ME NAKOSHI EIICHI'S※ AUTOGRAPH EARLIER, I'LL LET YOU MEET HIM.
MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT HAS HAD QUITE A FEW FAMOUS PEOPLE.
AUTHOR SHIMABE HIROTO LIVED HERE FOR TWO YEARS, AND NOW THERE'S A LOW-LEVEL MUSICIAN TOO!
DON'T CALL HIM LOW-LEVEL!

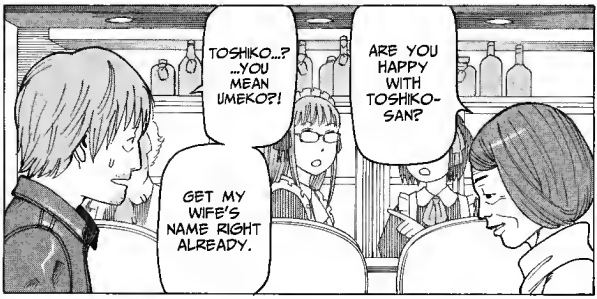
※ACTOR IN A SUSPENSE DRAMA (SEE VOLUME 11'S "THE FINAL MYSTERY")

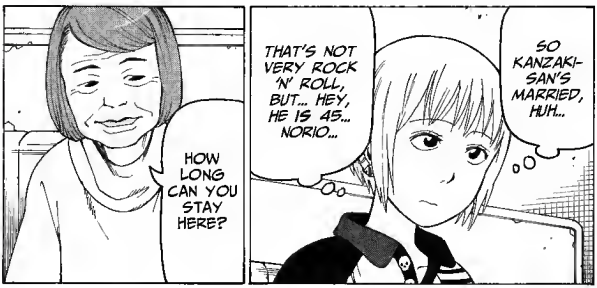

HE'S NOT WEARING HIS TRADEMARK SUNGLASSES! I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIS FACE.
!

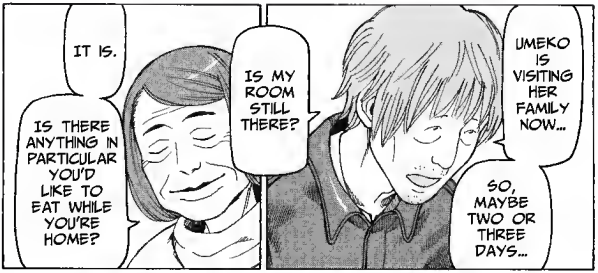
WHOA!! HE'S PLAIN!!

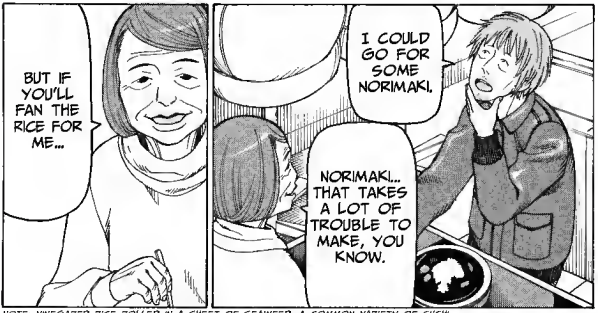
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JOKING, MOM.
SO THIS PLACE REALLY DID BECOME A MAID CAFE.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!


NORIO?!
KANZAKI AKITO'S REAL NAME IS NORIO?!
NORIO...
HM?

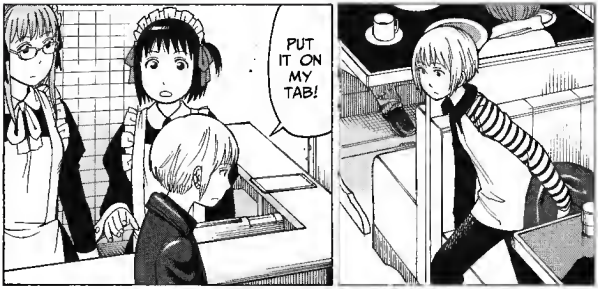

TOSHIKO...? ...YOU MEAN UMEKO?!
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH TOSHIKO-SAN?
GET MY WIFE'S NAME RIGHT ALREADY.

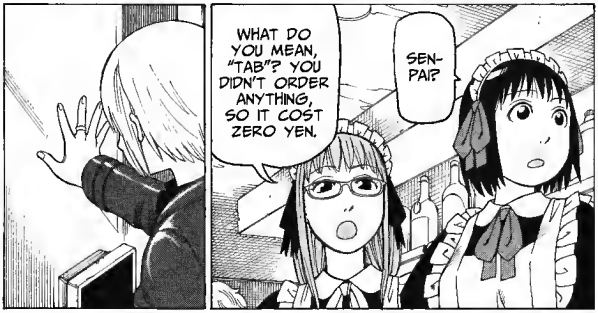

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY HERE?
THAT'S NOT VERY ROCK 'N' ROLL, BUT... HEY, HE IS 45... NORIO...
SO KANZAKI-SAN'S MARRIED, HUH...


UMEKO IS VISITING HER FAMILY NOW...
SO, MAYBE TWO OR THREE DAYS...
IS MY ROOM STILL THERE?
IT IS.
IS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR YOU'D LIKE TO EAT WHILE YOU'RE HOME?



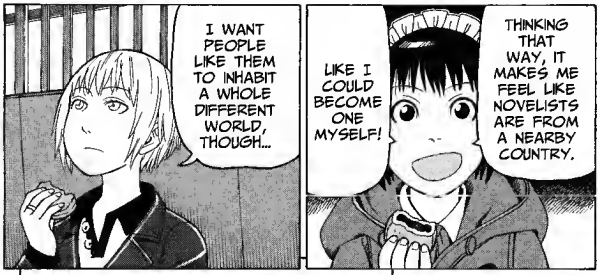
NOTE: VINEGARED RICE ROLLED IN A SHEET OF SEAWEED, A COMMON VARIETY OF SUSHI





SIGN:
MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT

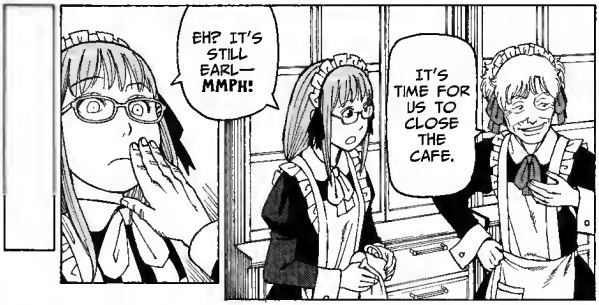
NOTE: FILLED PANCAKE-LIKE TREAT SHAPED LIKE A GIANT COIN


I WANT PEOPLE LIKE THEM TO INHABIT A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD, THOUGH...
LIKE I COULD BECOME ONE MYSELF!
THINKING THAT WAY, IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE NOVELISTS ARE FROM A NEARBY COUNTRY.

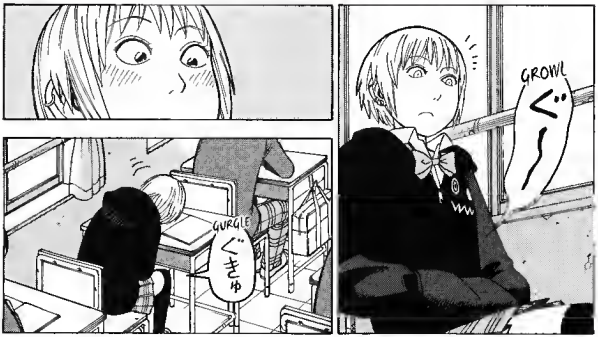
SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE

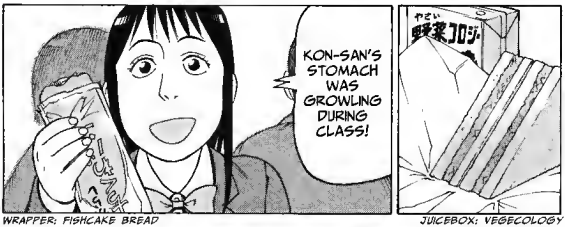
THEY'RE IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD.
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THAT'S DONE BY PEOPLE IN THE CELESTIAL REALM!
LIKE, SAY...
...MUSIC FOR GHIBLI FILMS.

NOW, THEN...
YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR CATCHING-UP AT HOME.


EH? IT'S STILL EARL— MMPH!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO CLOSE THE CAFE.

I'M GETTING HUNGRY...





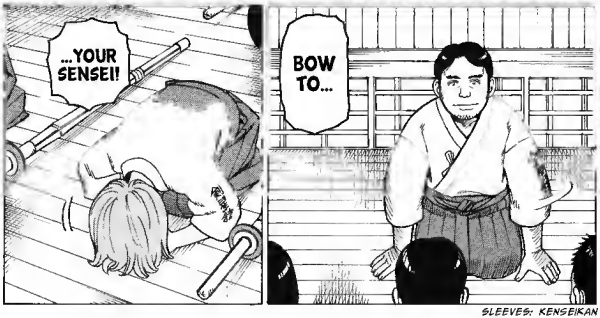
WRAPPER: FISHCAKE BREAD

JUICEBOX: VEGECOLOGY

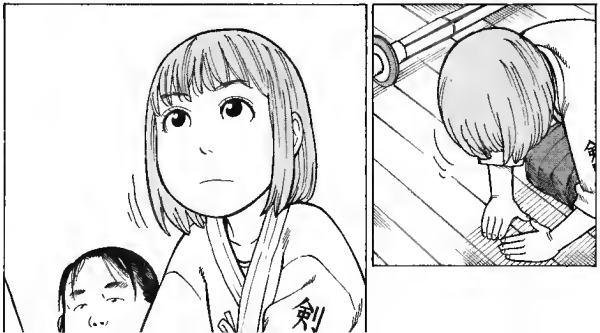
CHAPTER 94 / END

SIGN: KENDO DOJO KENSEIKAN

CHAPTER 95



SLEEVES: KENSEIKAN



それでも町は廻っている

通称"それ町"

石黒正数

Ishiguro Masakazu

Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

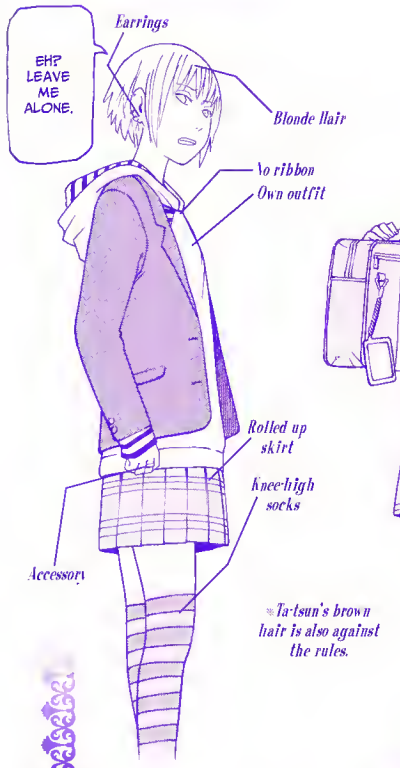
YOUNG KING COMICS

Eppur, citta muove!

AND YET THE TOWN MOVES

OYA HIGH SCHOOL SECRETS

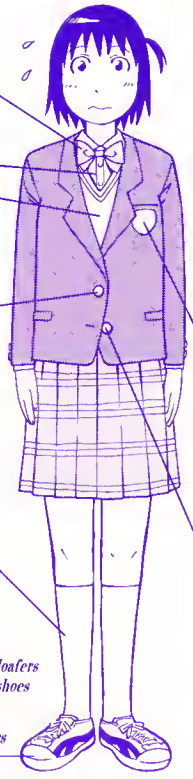
ENTIRELY AGAINST THE RULES



*Ta-tsun's brown hair is also against the rules.

SUMMER UNIFORM

WINTER UNIFORM



SOCKS
Cannot cover the knee
White, black, or navy blue
Only one decorative emblem allowed

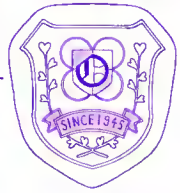
SHOES
Girls wear black or brown loafers
Boys wear black leather shoes

Students wear designated sneakers indoors

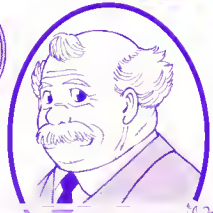
SCHOOL EMBLEM

The emblem uses the motif of shepherd's grass, the school flower, with four petals and six stamens.

SCHOOL CREST



BUTTON



Principal Oya Takayuki

YOUNG KING COMICS

通称"それ町"

それでも町は廻っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

5

石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

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※THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. NONE OF THE CHARACTERS, HAPPENINGS, ETC. ARE REAL!!

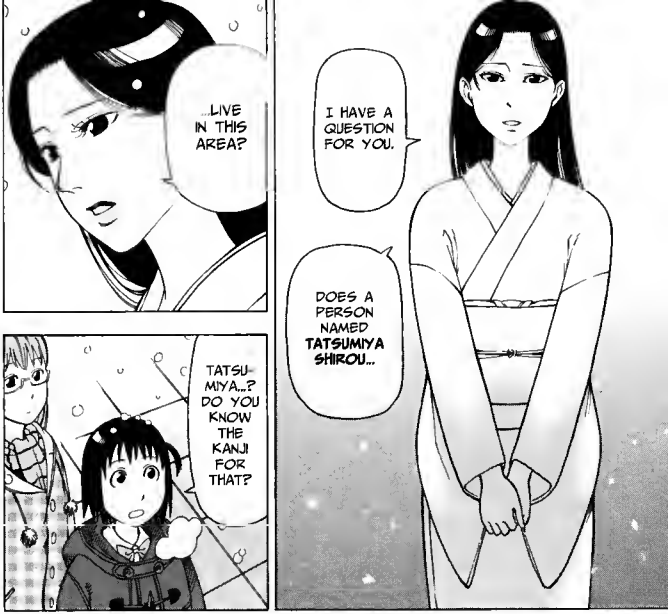
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
カラン
RATTLE
THAT WAS VERY HELP-FUL...
YOU SEE—
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOREIGN NAME.
THEN I'M—

CHAPTER 35
TALE OF THE VISITOR IN THE SNOW

BUILDING: MURAKAMI THE BUTCHER

OKKOTONUSHI: A BOAR-GOD FROM THE ANIMATED FILM PRINCESS MONONOKE

UM... EXCUSE ME...
NOT VERY CONVINC-ING.
THAT'S LIKE TELLING SOMEONE TO GO BUY "EVERYONE" DRINKS BECAUSE "EVERYONE" IS WAITING.
BUT SNOW MAKES EVERY-ONE HAPPY.


...LIVE IN THIS AREA?
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
DOES A PERSON NAMED TATSUMIYA SHIROU...
TATSU-MIYA...? DO YOU KNOW THE KANJI FOR THAT?

DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE OUT HIS NAME.
OF COURSE NOT. I DON'T LIVE IN THIS AREA...

I'M SUPPOSED TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT THIS TOWN...
YOU CAN'T KNOW EVERY-THING.
THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TO ASK THE POLICE FOR HELP.
OKAY ...!
AH!
THIEF!!
SILENCE
?
THAT'S ODD.
I FIGURED THAT...
THIEF!
WHAT?!
CLATTER
...HE WOULD SHOW UP LIKE THAT.

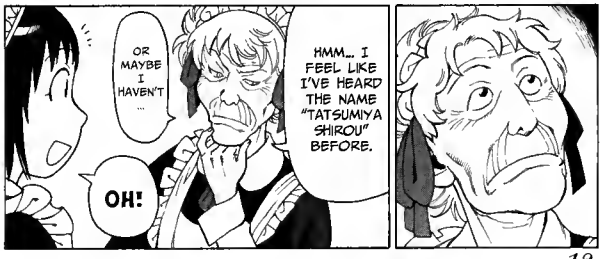
ARE YOU TAILING US? SOMETHING SEEMS FISHY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA.
POLICE
HE REALLY SHOWED UP!
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE A MANGA CHARACTER?!
BYE! I HOPE IT DOESN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO FIND... TAMAMUSHI GOROU... WAS IT?
THAT'S NOT HIS NAME, BUT THANK YOU.
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
THE SNOW WILL CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF BLIZZARD CONDITIONS.
IT WILL BEGIN SNOWING IN THE KANTO REGION AFTER NOON.

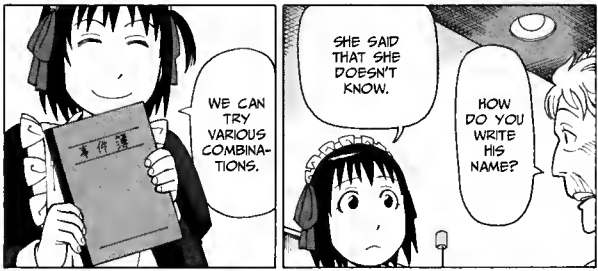
IS GLOBAL WARMING TO BLAME AGAIN?
YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A STORM IN THE KANTO REGION.
THAT WAS YOUR WEATHER UPDATE.
MAN, MY FEET ARE FREEZ-ING.
LIKE WHAT?
GLOBAL WARMING DOES ALL KINDS OF BAD THINGS!
WHAT DOES COLD WEATHER HAVE TO DO WITH GLOBAL WARMING?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
GRAN, SHE'S NOT ECO-FRIENDLY!
GIVE ME SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES.
SQUEAL
LIKE THAT! YOUR APATHY WILL RUIN OUR EARTH!!

RATTLE
カラン
RATTLE
カラン
BRR... IT'S SO COLD!
POLICE
OH, YOU HAVEN'T MANAGED TO FIND...
...TAMA-MUSHI GOROU?
I CHECKED THE ADDRESS BOOK AT THE STATION, BUT HE WASN'T ON THERE...
SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE NAME, ISOHATA-SAN...
POLICE
TAT-SUMIYA.
TAMA-MUSHI GO-ROU?!
TATSU-MIYA SHIROU.
I'VE ONLY BEEN WORKING HERE FOR TWO YEARS...
OH, CAN I GET OMELET RICE?
SURE THING.
POLICE

ヒョン HOP
I CAN'T STAND HEAT, SO COULD YOU SEAT US AWAY FROM THE FURNACE?
OH, SURE.
UM...
.....
AND, PLEASE, MAY I HAVE SOME COLD WATER?
YEP. WATER IS FREE.
OUR POLICY IS TO LEAVE THE CUSTOMERS BE.
BUT WE'RE A MAID CAFE.
SHE LOOKS KIND OF PALE.
SHOULDN'T WE GIVE HER SOMETHING TO EAT?
DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG.

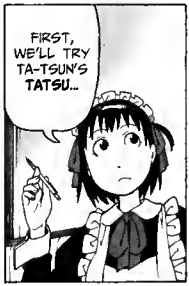
BOOK: NEIGHBORHOOD MAP





BOOK CASE BOOK

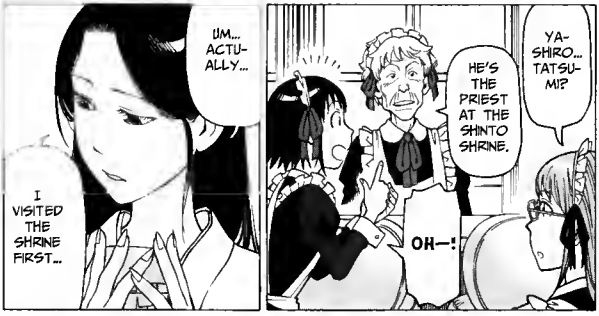
JINGU: THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE ISE GRAND SHRINE AND A GENERAL TERM FOR IMPERIAL SHINTO SHRINES.

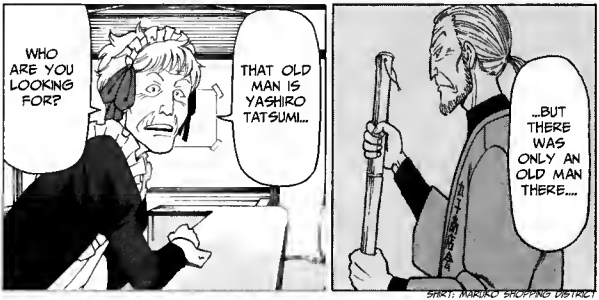


YES, THAT WAS INCONSIDERATE OF ME. I'M SO SORRY, YOU MONKEY!!
I WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD IF YOU SAID THE MIYA FROM MIYAGAWA DAISUKE HANAKO.
OH...

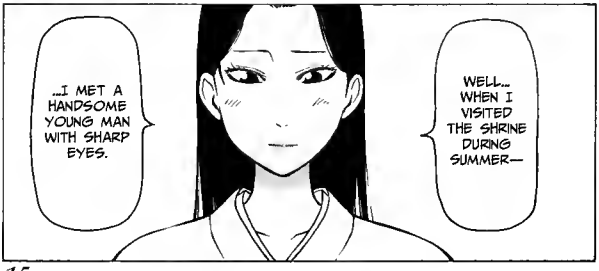
MIYAGAWA DAISUKE HANAKO: A HUSBAND-WIFE COMEDY DUO.

PAGE: TATSUMIYA SHIROU (X3)



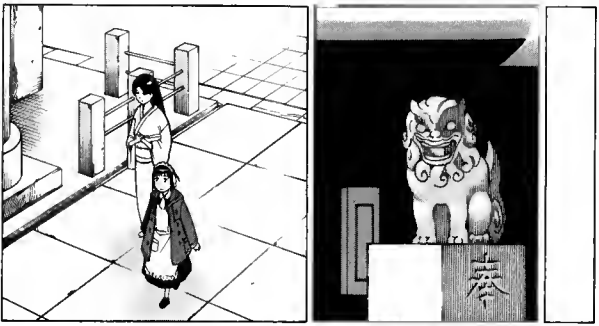


SHIRT: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT



YOUR HANDSOME YOUNG MAN MIGHT BE A RELATIVE OF THE OLD GEEZER!
AH...
WE MIGHT FIND A CLUE!
WELL, LET'S TRY THE SHRINE, THEN.

IF THEY DON'T FIND HIM, THEY'LL COME BACK.
SHOULDN'T YOU GO WITH THEM?
WELL, THERE SHE GOES.

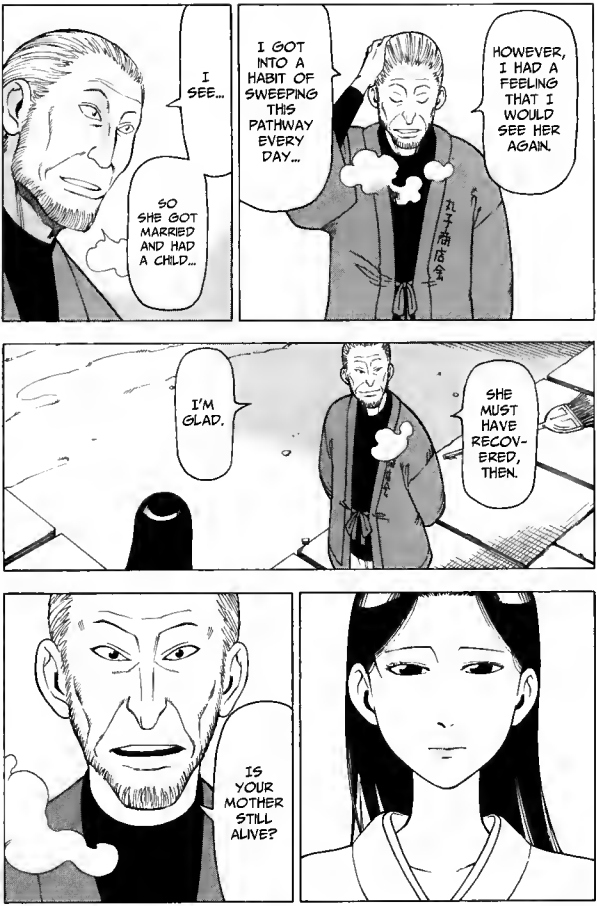


YA-SHIRO-SAN.
YEAH!
OVER HERE.
YOU SEE, THIS LADY HERE IS...
CLACK

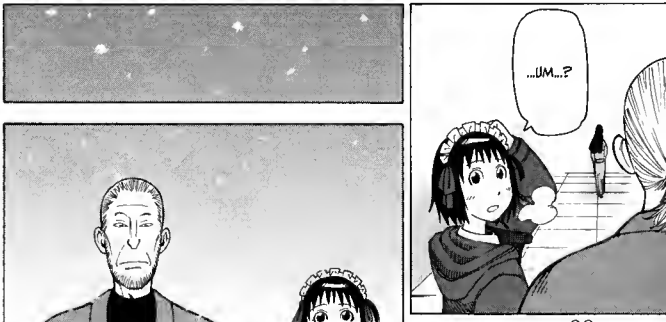
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE...
ONDA YUKI-SAN'S DAUGHTER ...?!
丸子商店会
ARE YOU...
...SHI-RO-SAN?
DAUGH-TER...?
YES... THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR MOTHER CALLED ME SHIRO-SAN..
WE MET ONE SUMMER THIRTY YEARS AGO—

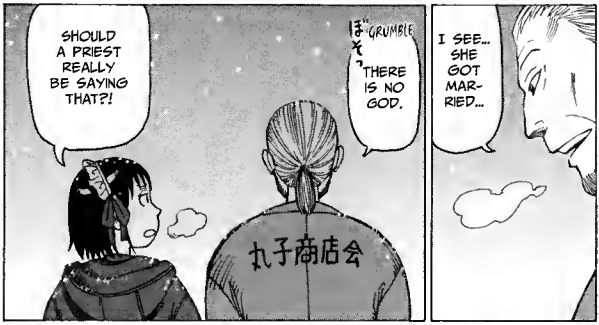
EXCUSE ME..
COULD YOU PLEASE BRING ME SOME COLD WATER?
I WAS SWEEPING THE WALK-WAY...
AFTER THAT, SHE BEGAN VISITING THE SHRINE ON A REGULAR BASIS.
RATTLE
カラン
HOW-EVER, HER HEALTH APPEARED TO WORSEN WITH EACH VISIT...
ALL I COULD DO...

HOW-
EVER, HER
CONDITION
CONTINUED
TO DETE-
RIORATE...
ON MAYURA
KIRANTEI RAABA
SOWAKA
ON MAYURA
KIRANTEI RAABA
SOWAKA
...WAS
PRAY
FOR HER
RECOV-
ERY...
I WILL BE
RETURNING
HOME TO
RECUPERATE.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
YUKI-
SAN...
I WAS
UNDER THE
IMPRESSION
THAT SHE
WOULDN'T
LIVE MUCH
LONGER...
ONCE
I GET
BETTER,
I'LL COME
BACK TO
SEE YOU.
...I
PROMISE!


I SEE...
SO SHE GOT MARRIED AND HAD A CHILD...
I GOT INTO A HABIT OF SWEEPING THIS PATHWAY EVERY DAY...
HOWEVER, I HAD A FEELING THAT I WOULD SEE HER AGAIN.
I'M GLAD.
SHE MUST HAVE RECOVERED, THEN.
IS YOUR MOTHER STILL ALIVE?

...YES.
AFTER MEETING YOU HERE THIRTY YEARS AGO...
...MY MOTHER...
...IS DOING VERY WELL.
ESPECIALLY DURING THE WINTER.

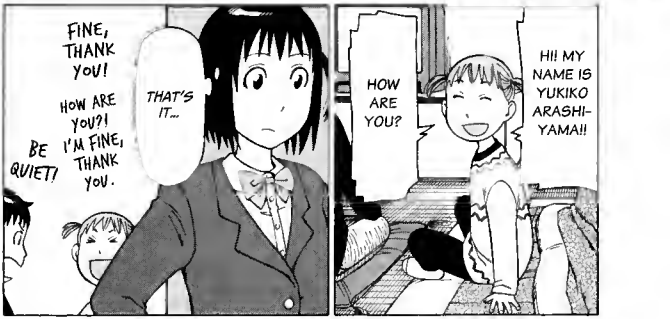

...UM...?

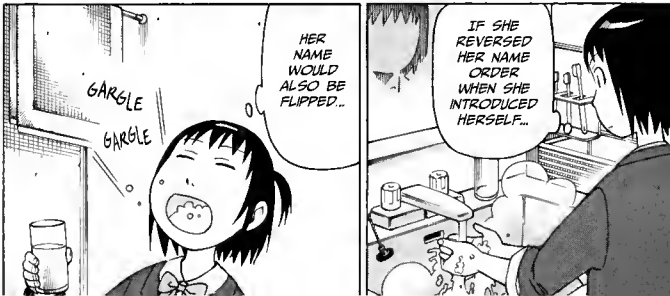

SHOULD A PRIEST REALLY BE SAYING THAT?!
ぼそ
GRUMBLE
THERE IS NO GOD.
れ子商店会
I SEE... SHE GOT MAR-RIED...

ゴオ
HOWL

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT GROWN-UP CONVERSA-TION...
I'M HOME!
BRRRR!

HI! MY NAME IS HOTORI ARASHI-YAMA!
THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SO CONFUS-ING...
STILL, WHY DID SHE FLIP YASHIRO-SAN'S NAME AROUND?

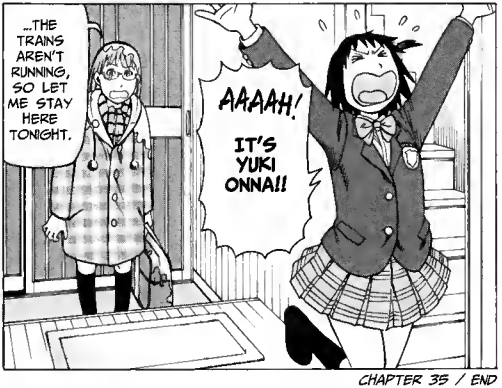

HI! MY NAME IS YUKIKO ARASHI-YAMA!!
HOW ARE YOU?
THAT'S IT...
FINE, THANK YOU!
HOW ARE YOU?! I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
BE QUIET!


HER NAME WOULD ALSO BE FLIPPED..
GARGLE GARGLE
IF SHE REVERSED HER NAME ORDER WHEN SHE INTRODUCED HERSELF...

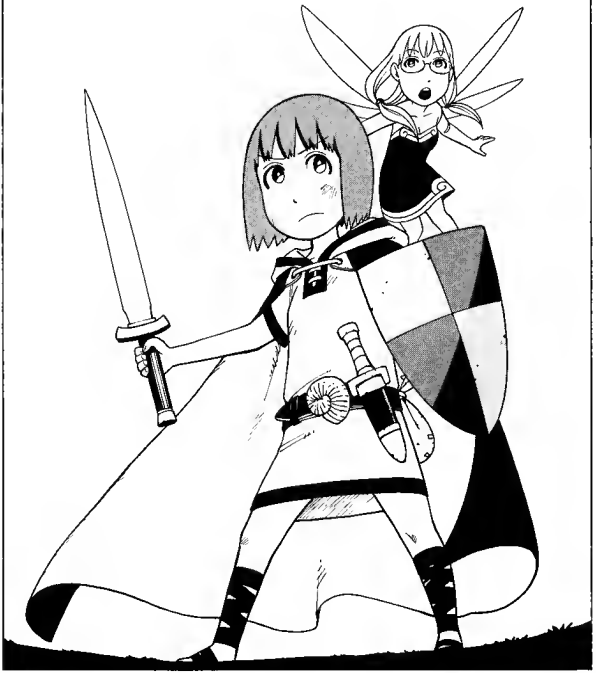
YUKI ONDA...
ONDA YUKI.
ONDA YUKI.
...TATSUMI YASHIRO.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOREIGN NAME.
THEN I'M...
I AM...
...YUKI ONDA.
NO WAY.
...HA HA HA.
...YUKI ONNA (SNOW WOMAN).
YOU SEE... I'M...
YUKI ONDA.

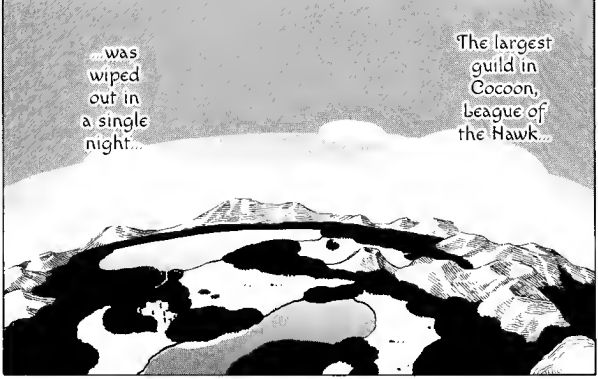
EEK?!
POUND
POUND
POUND
HOWL

SLAM

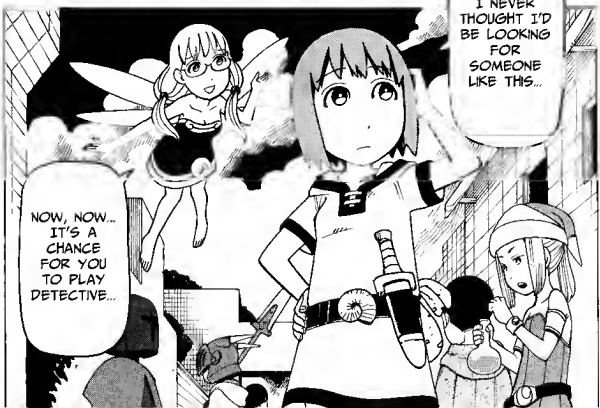

...THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING, SO LET ME STAY HERE TONIGHT.
AAAAH! IT'S YUKI ONNA!!

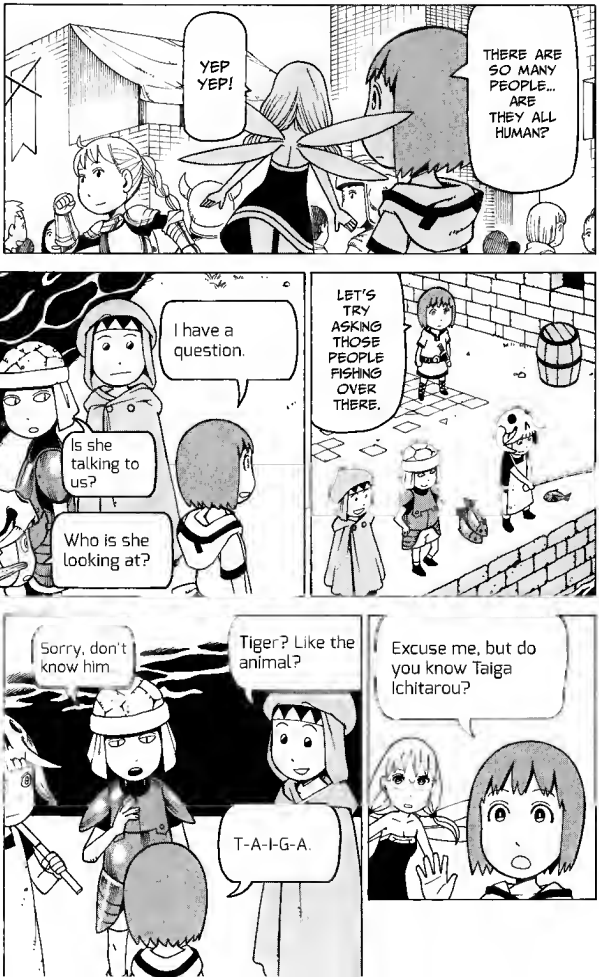
CHAPTER 79 HOTORI'S WAR

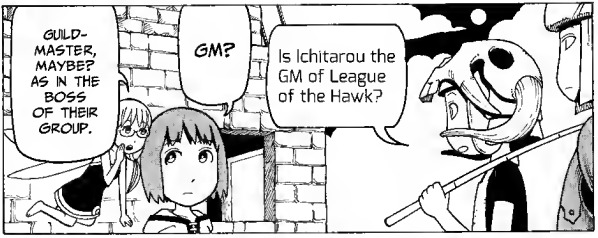


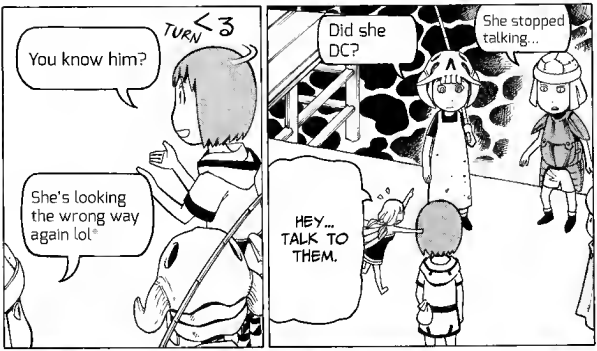

...was wiped out in a single night...
The largest guild in Cocoon, League of the Hawk...

—THE CITY OF KUNG POW—
...because of one person...

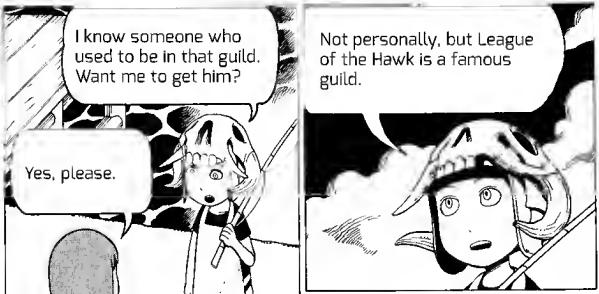

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE THIS...
NOW, NOW... IT'S A CHANCE FOR YOU TO PLAY DETECTIVE...


YEP YEP!
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE... ARE THEY ALL HUMAN?
I have a question.
Is she talking to us?
Who is she looking at?
LET'S TRY ASKING THOSE PEOPLE FISHING OVER THERE.
Sorry, don't know him
Tiger? Like the animal?
T-A-I-G-A.
Excuse me, but do you know Taiga Ichitarou?





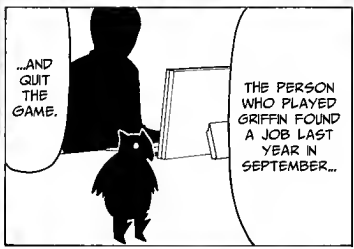
*LOL: LAUGHING OUT LOUD

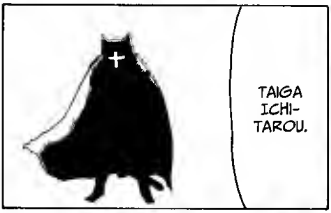

I know someone who used to be in that guild. Want me to get him?
Yes, please.
Not personally, but League of the Hawk is a famous guild.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
WHOA!
HEY, WE'VE GOT CUSTOM-ERS!
RATTLE
カラン
RATTLE
カラン
COFFEE
WHAT?
ER...
HOTORI, KEEP TALKING TO THEM!
LEAGUE OF THE HAWK IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND OLDEST GUILDS.
...WHERE PEOPLE WITH THE SAME INTERESTS GROUP TOGETHER...
SO IN THAT ONLINE GAME, THERE ARE A BUNCH OF THESE GUILDS...

HE WAS REPLACED BY THE CURRENT LEADER.
AND THE CURRENT LEADER...

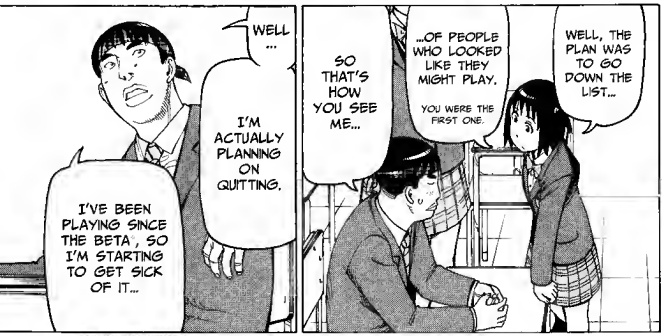
THE FOUNDER WAS SOMEONE CALLED GRIFFIN.


...AND QUIT THE GAME.
THE PERSON WHO PLAYED GRIFFIN FOUND A JOB LAST YEAR IN SEPTEMBER...


TAIGA ICHI-TAROU.

...IS THE CHARACTER YOUR LITTLE BROTHER PLAYS.

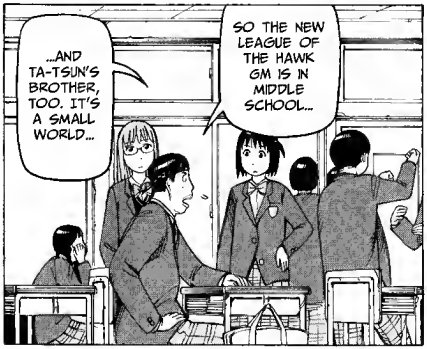
I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHY...


WELL, THE PLAN WAS TO GO DOWN THE LIST...
...OF PEOPLE WHO LOOKED LIKE THEY MIGHT PLAY.
YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE.
SO THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME...
WELL ...
I'M ACTUALLY PLANNING ON QUITTING.
I'VE BEEN PLAYING SINCE THE BETA, SO I'M STARTING TO GET SICK OF IT...

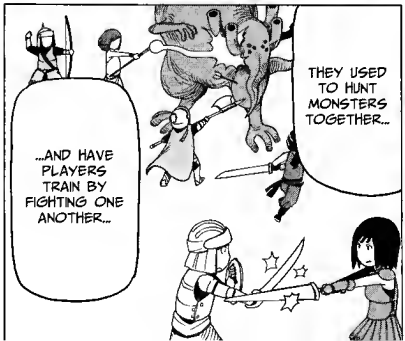
BETA: TEST VERSION

BUT I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THE GAME.
LEVELING MY CHARAC-TER AND FARMING ITEMS...
THAT MAKES ME NOT WANT TO QUIT, SO I KEEP PAYING THE SUBSCRIPTION FEE...
YOU'VE FALLEN INTO THEIR TRAP.

2-A
A SHUT-IN?
HE'S NOT THERE YET, BUT HE'S CLOSE, RIGHT?
NO.
HE'S DEFI-NITELY A SHUT-IN.


SO THE NEW LEAGUE OF THE HAWK GM IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
...AND TA-TSUN'S BROTHER, TOO. IT'S A SMALL WORLD...

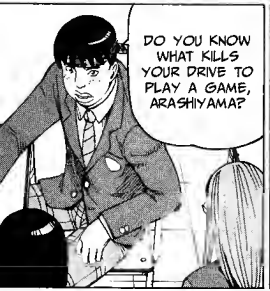
HE SPENDS THE WHOLE DAY INSIDE HIS ROOM AND SKIPS SCHOOL.
IT GOT WORSE OVER WINTER BREAK.


THEY USED TO HUNT MONSTERS TOGETHER...
...AND HAVE PLAYERS TRAIN BY FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER...

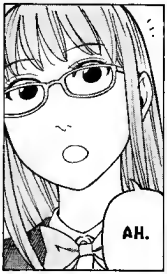
WELL, THEIR REPUTATION'S SUFFERED SINCE THE NEW LEADER TOOK OVER...

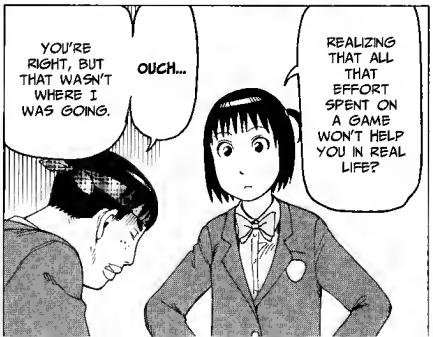
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE IS SUDDENLY GRANTED OVERWHELMING POWER...

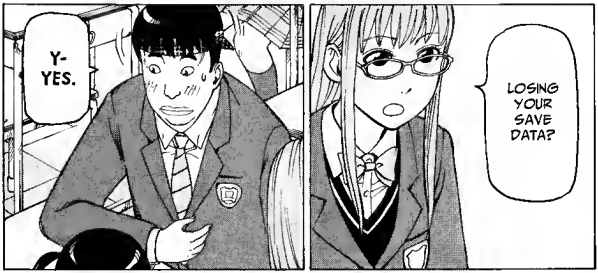
BUT AFTER ICHITAROU BECAME THE BOSS, THEY'VE STARTED FLAUNTING THEIR SIZE AND WEALTH...
...BY ATTACKING AND ROBBING OTHER PLAYERS OR CHALLENGING OTHER GUILDS TO WAR.

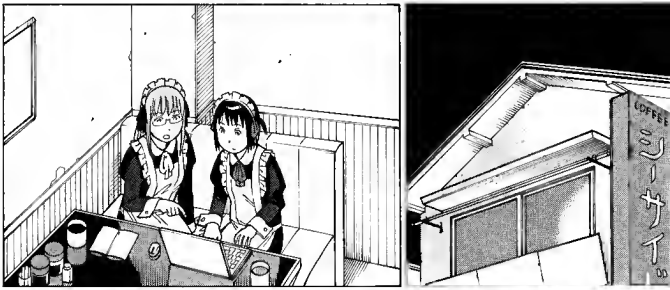

DO YOU KNOW WHAT KILLS YOUR DRIVE TO PLAY A GAME, ARASHIYAMA?

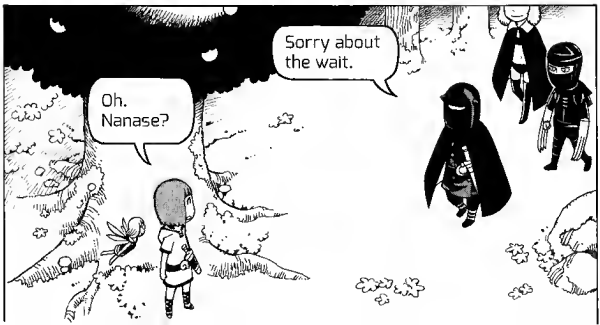
HMM.
...WE NEED YOU TO HELP US STOP HIM.
NOW THAT WE KNOW THE CAUSE...


AH.


YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT THAT WASN'T WHERE I WAS GOING.
OUCH...
REALIZING THAT ALL THAT EFFORT SPENT ON A GAME WON'T HELP YOU IN REAL LIFE?


Y-YES.
LOSING YOUR SAVE DATA?


COFFEE
シーサイ


Sorry about the wait.
Oh. Nanase?

It feels weird to talk to you in a game.
Is she really in high school?
Is she cute?
Hey, don't use my real name!!
lol
YEAH... THE INTERNET IS SCARY...
!
...IS THIS REALLY NANASE ?!
She's cute, but in a little sister way, so she's not my type lol
Heh...
Because black is Shadow Gallery's color.
You're all dressed in black.

Our goal is to explore the world in peace, so we're tiny compared to them.
Shadow Gallery? You also have a guild?
SG(Shadow Gallery)'s history rivals League of the Hawk.
But if all goes according to plan, Ichitarou will lose interest in playing this game.
That's impossible.
So, how are we going to wipe out Ichitarou's data?
If League of the Hawk is merged into Shadow Gallery as one guild...
...I can kick Ichitarou out as the guild master.

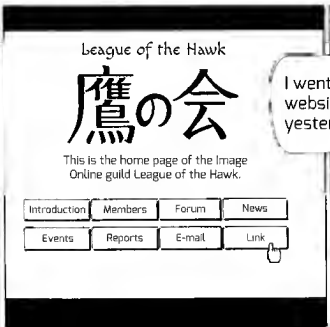
Once that's done, Ichitarou will have nowhere to go.
I'll put as much of the guild's wealth as I can on my character before quitting.
THAT WOULD CERTAINLY CHANGE THE SITUATION...
...BUT IT SEEMS A LITTLE RECK-LESS.
The person who is the key to our success will be arriving shortly.
Oh, there he is.
And how will you get League of the Hawk to join your guild?

Good evening.
Good evening.
PAT
PAT

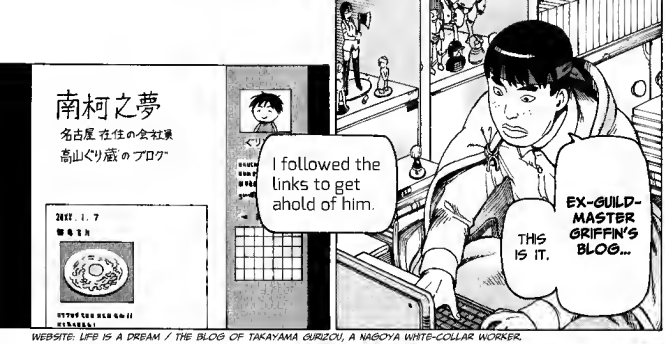
Hello, there.
I'm Griffin. Good evening.

This is Griffin, former GM of League of the Hawk.

WHOA! WHICH BUTTON DO I PRESS TO BOW?!
HEY! THAT'S RUDE!


League of the Hawk
鷹の会
This is the home page of the Image Online guild League of the Hawk.
Introduction
Members
Forum
News
Events
Reports
E-mail
Link

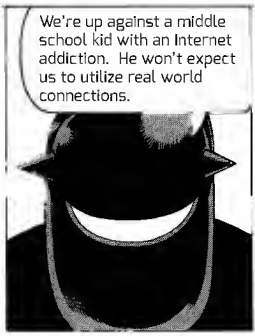
How did you get in touch with him?
I went to their website yesterday.



WEBSITE: LIFE IS A DREAM / THE BLOG OF TAKAYAMA GURIZOU, A NAGOYA WHITE-COLLAR WORKER.

League of the Hawk isn't wholly united. There are some who enjoy fighting like Ichitarou...
...but many members wanted to disband after I quit the game.

In order to prepare for the war, I contacted Griffin.


We're up against a middle school kid with an Internet addiction. He won't expect us to utilize real world connections.

I've also asked people I know to help out.

I contacted a few of those members...
...and asked them to secretly join Shadow Gallery.

...AND BELIEVES THAT SG IS WEAK.
HE IS CONFIDENT IN HIS OWN GUILD'S STRENGTH...

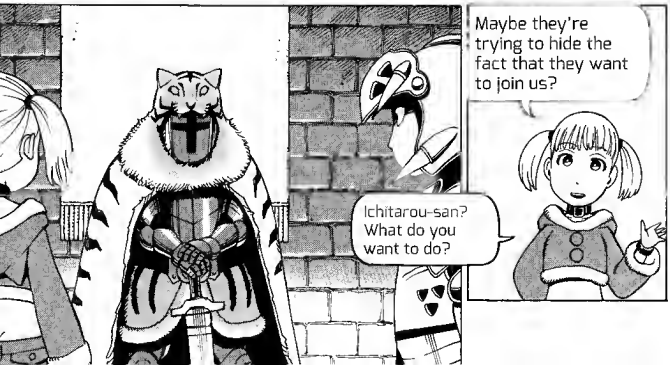
WILL HE ACCEPT A WAR WHERE THE LOSING GUILD HAS TO JOIN THE WINNING GUILD...?

鷹
Ichitarou-san.
THAT GIVES US AN OPENING.

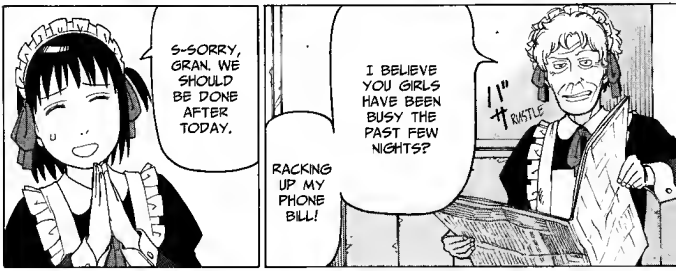
CASTLE: HAWK

Shadow Gallery??
That's an old and small guild.
Why would they challenge us to a war with these conditions?

Shadow Gallery has challenged us to a war.


Maybe they're trying to hide the fact that they want to join us?
Ichitarou-san? What do you want to do?

IT'LL BE AT 8 PM TONIGHT.
YOUR BROTHER ACCEPTED!
COFFEE
シーサイド


S-SORRY, GRAN. WE SHOULD BE DONE AFTER TODAY.
I BELIEVE YOU GIRLS HAVE BEEN BUSY THE PAST FEW NIGHTS?
RUSTLE
RACKING UP MY PHONE BILL!

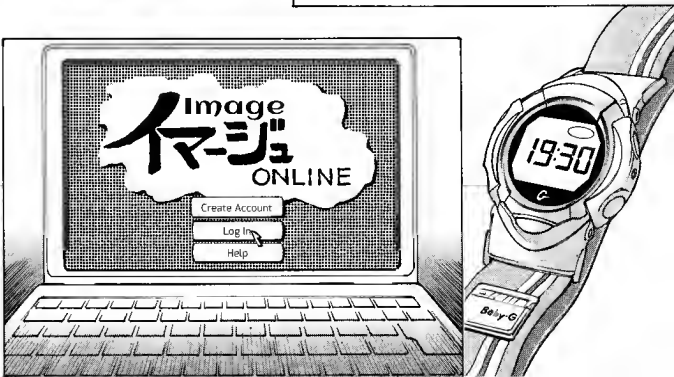
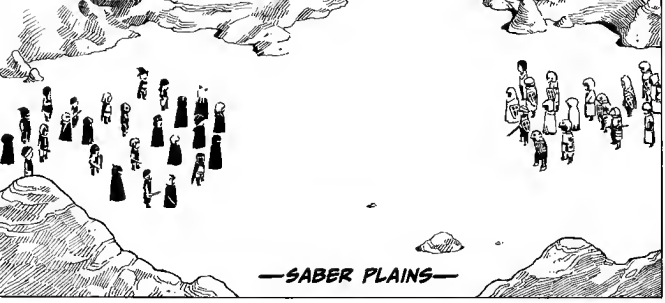
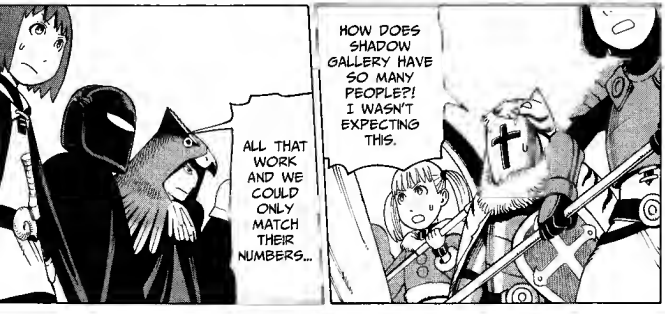


Image
イマージュ
ONLINE
Create Account
Log In
Help
19:30
Baby-G


—SABER PLAINS—

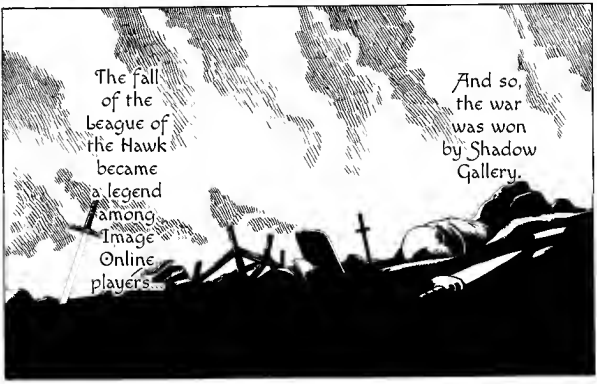

HOW DOES SHADOW GALLERY HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE?! I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.
ALL THAT WORK AND WE COULD ONLY MATCH THEIR NUMBERS...

I'M NOT SURE HOW WE ENDED UP FIGHTING A WAR...
..BUT THESE ARE REAL PEOPLE PLAYING THIS GAME.
IT'S JUST A GAME, BUT THEY'VE WORKED HARD TO GET WHERE THEY ARE.
DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DESTROY IT ALL?

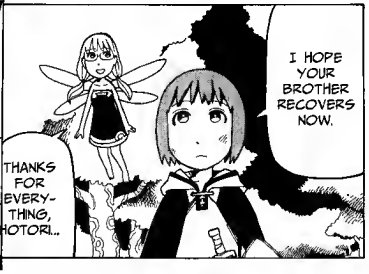
IS THIS WAR REALLY JUST?
IF THIS GAME IS CAUSING MY FRIEND GRIEF...
BUT...
CLICK
ガチャ
ガチャ
CLICK
...THEN MY CAUSE IS JUST!
ニゾヤッ
WHOOSH

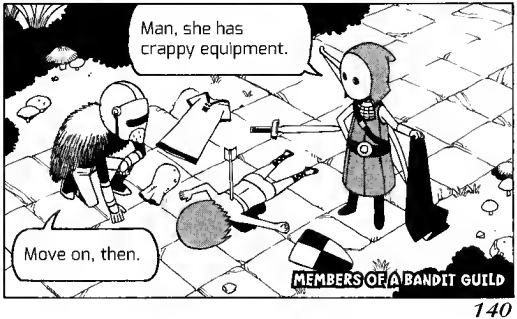
Don't use my real name!!
ESPECIALLY NOT MY FULL NAME!!
Tatsuno Kotarou, I challenge you to a duel.
ドカッ
ZAP
SHOOT.
STAB
ズン

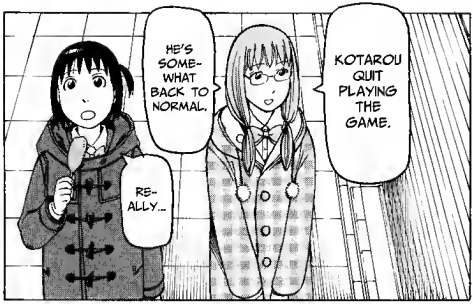
SORRY, ICHI-TAROU...
WHY, GRIFFIN-SAN...?

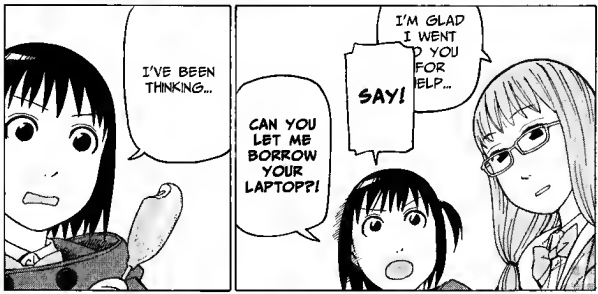

The fall of the League of the Hawk became a legend among Image Online players...
And so, the war was won by Shadow Gallery.

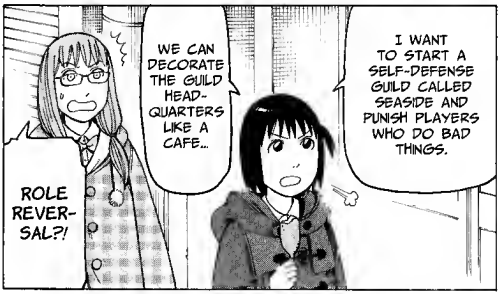
...but few know that it was for the sake of a single middle school boy.







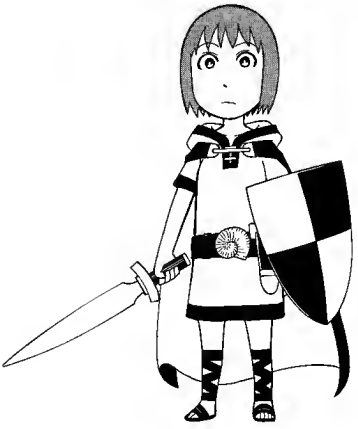



I WANT TO START A SELF-DEFENSE GUILD CALLED SEASIDE AND PUNISH PLAYERS WHO DO BAD THINGS.
WE CAN DECORATE THE GUILD HEAD-QUARTERS LIKE A CAFE...
ROLE REVER-SAL?!

CHAPTER 79 / END

HOTORI'S CHARACTER

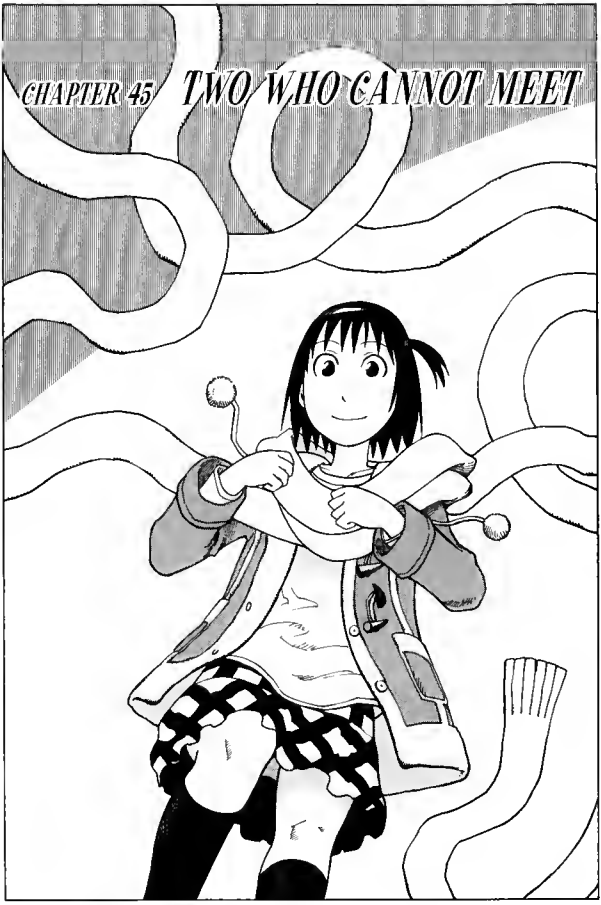
NAME: PENGUIN

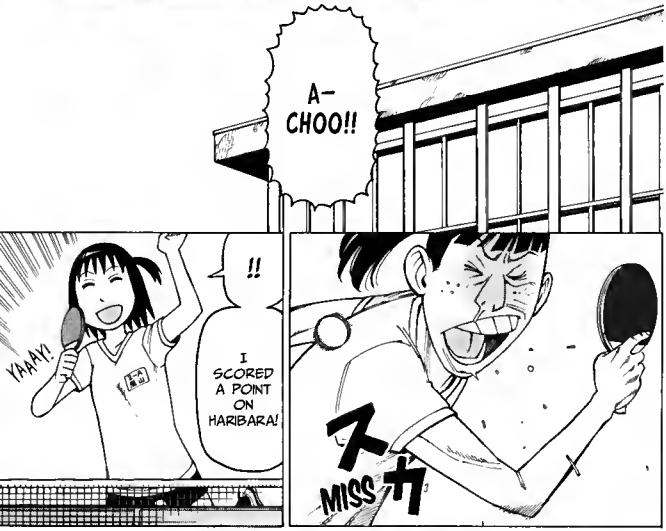


EQUIPMENT

-RHADAMAN SWORD
-RHADAMAN SHIELD
-MANTLE WITH CLIP
-HOODED SHORT-SLEEVED ONE-PIECE
-CHINO DAGGER
-SEASHELL BELT
(REDUCES WATER DAMAGE BY 15%)
-CALF-HIGH SANDALS
-ITEM BAG

BUILDING: UNIVERSITY


CHAPTER 45
TWO WHO CANNOT MEET



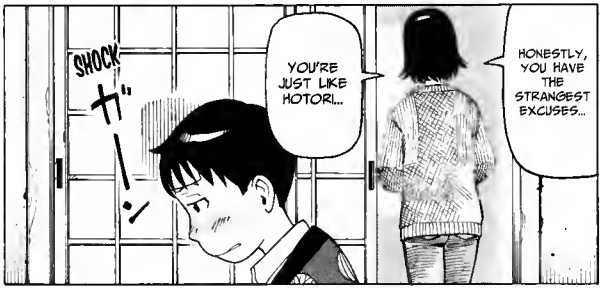
SHIRT: ARASHIYAMA

I'M SICK.
NO WAY.
YOU'RE PLAYING ME NEXT!
WAA-CHOO!!
TICK
TICK
TICK
カチ
カチ
カチコチ
TOCK
TOCK
HACK
COUGH

BOTTLE: CAREFREE COUGH SYRUP FOR CHILDREN, FRUIT FLAVOR

JUST DRINK THE COUGH SYRUP!!
JUST GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED...

THAT WASN'T A COUGH. I WAS JUST CLEARING MY THROAT.

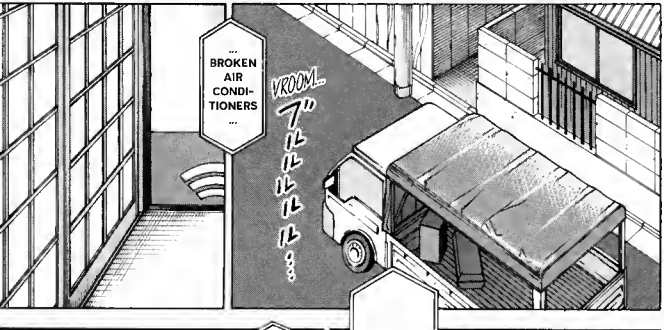

SHOCK
ガーン
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HOTORI...
HONESTLY, YOU HAVE THE STRANGEST EXCUSES...

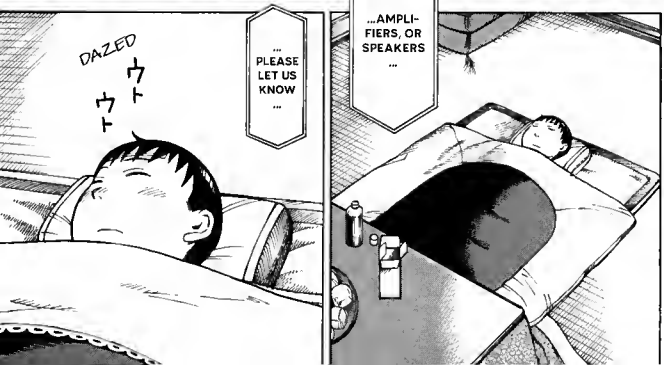
GULP
ぐっ

IMAGE ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER
BESIDES, THIS TASTES NOTHING LIKE FRUIT...

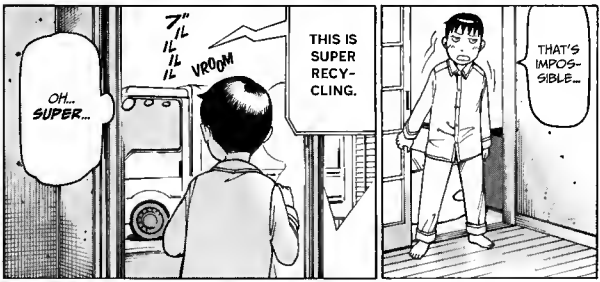
ジロップ
フルーツ味

...EVEN THE DINO-SAURS WOULD STAY AWAY!
IF REAL FRUIT TASTED LIKE THIS...
IMAGE ACCORDING TO THE ACTUAL TASTE
GAGGG!!


...BROKEN AIR CONDI-TIONERS...
VROOM...
ブルルルル...


...AMPLI-FIERS, OR SPEAKERS...
...PLEASE LET US KNOW...
DAZED
ウト
ウト

SOOTHING
YOU CAN HAVE SOME COTTON CANDY IN RETURN.
HERE'S A BROKEN AIR CONDITIONER.
SUGAR RECY-CLING?!
...THIS IS SUGAR RECY-CLING.


OH... SUPER...
ブルルル VROOM
THIS IS SUPER RECY-CLING.
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

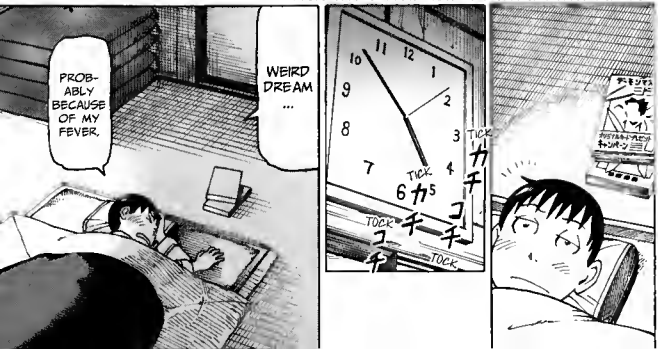
もしゅ MUNCH
もしゅ MUNCH
MY FRIES ARE COLD AND DRY...
I BOUGHT THEM THIS MORNING.
Flaburger
Flaburger

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T BRING LUNCH TODAY?
MOM WAS BUSY LOOKING AFTER TAKERU BECAUSE HE'S SICK.
CHOMP
バリッ
OH, TAKERU-KUN HAS A COLD?! I SHOULD GO VISIT HIM!!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT'S WITH YOUR LUNCH?! ARE YOU ON A DIET?!
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN LUNCH.
...NO.
I'LL LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU WERE WORRIED, THOUGH.
I'M NOT ON A DIET, BLOCK-HEAD!
I HAVE NO APPETITE BECAUSE I'M SICK!!
OH, YOU'RE BETTER NOW.
NO...
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT, LIKE BOOBS AND A FANTASTIC WAISTLINE!
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?!

THAT'S DIRTY.
DARN!
UGH
SLICE
バッ
THUD
ドカ
SPIN
ヒュン
SPIN
ヒュン
NOW DESTROY THAT MONSTER!
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WEAPON BACK.
!?

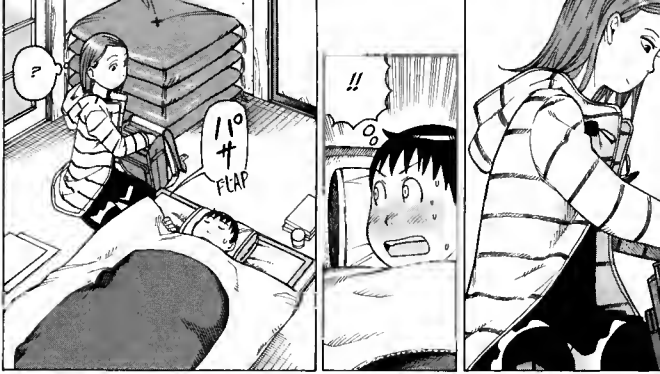
YOU FOOL! OUR BOSS IS IN LOVE WITH YOU!
SO YOU SAY... BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY UP TO SOMETHING EVIL AGAIN!
I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A GOOD GUY.
!
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM THAT!

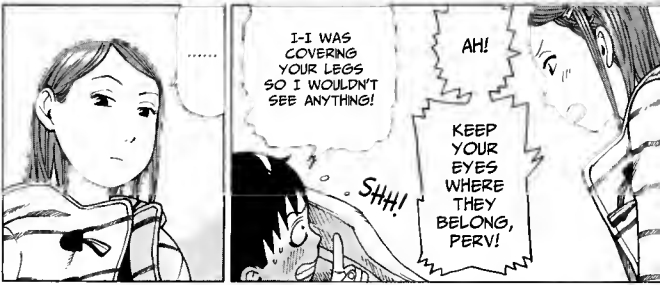
MAGAZINE: DEMON MASTER YOSHIO / ORIGINAL CARD PRESENT CAMPAIGN

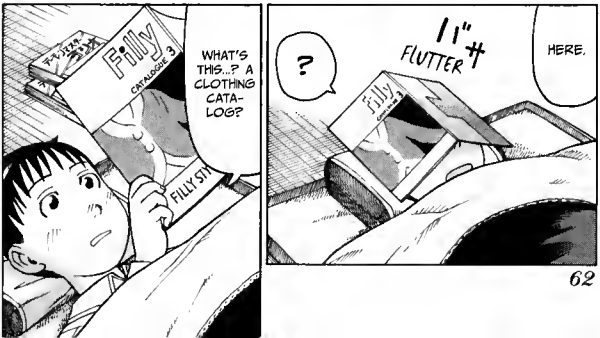


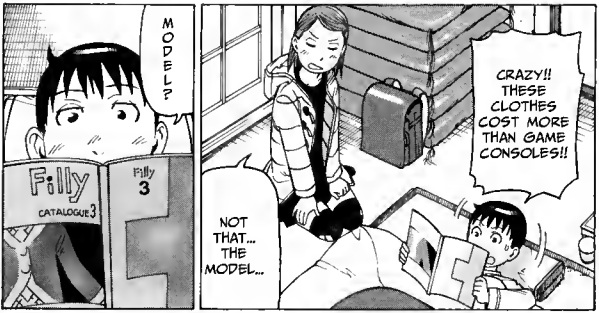
...HUH?
ISESAKI-SAN IS HERE.
FLASH
CLICK
TAKERU.
HEY, YOU FEELING OKAY?
EXCUSE ME.
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CATCH HIS COLD.
HUH?
HUH?!
PAT
COLD!
I DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE I'M NOT OKAY...
WELL...

PAPER: FEBRUARY MENU


?
FLAP
!!

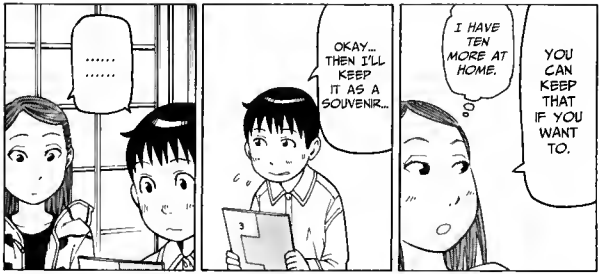

.....
I-I WAS COVERING YOUR LEGS SO I WOULDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
AH!
KEEP YOUR EYES WHERE THEY BELONG, PERV!
SHH!


Filly
CATALOGUE 3
FILLY STYLE
WHAT'S THIS...? A CLOTHING CATALOG?
?
FLUTTER
HERE.

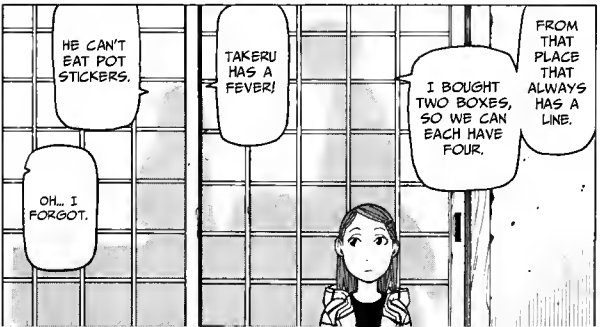

MODEL?
Filly
CATALOGUE 3
Filly
3
NOT THAT... THE MODEL...
CRAZY!! THESE CLOTHES COST MORE THAN GAME CONSOLES!!

PAGE: COAT

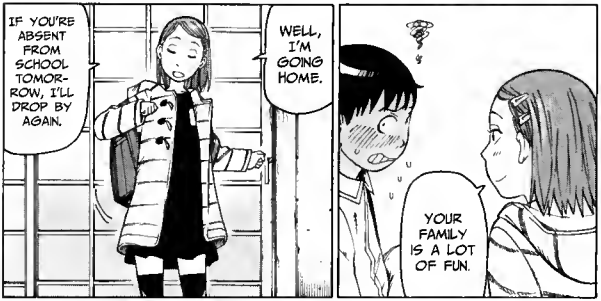
SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU!!
...THAT'S ME.
Filly
3
ONE OF MY MOM'S FRIENDS ASKED ME TO BE A MODEL...
COOL?
COOL!
OH!
¥ 33.600
¥ 37.400
¥ 39.200

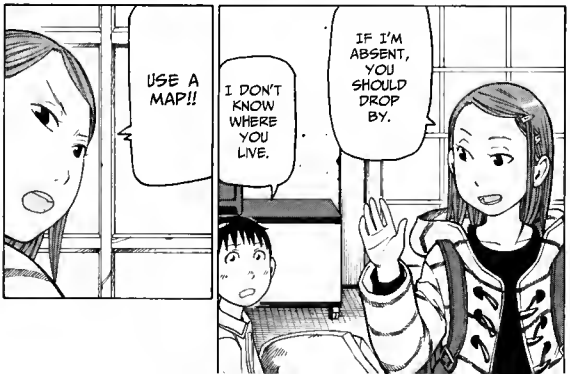

.....
.....
OKAY... THEN I'LL KEEP IT AS A SOUVENIR...
I HAVE TEN MORE AT HOME.
YOU CAN KEEP THAT IF YOU WANT TO.

OH.
WEL-COME HOME !!
I BOUGHT POT STICKERS.
I'M HOME...

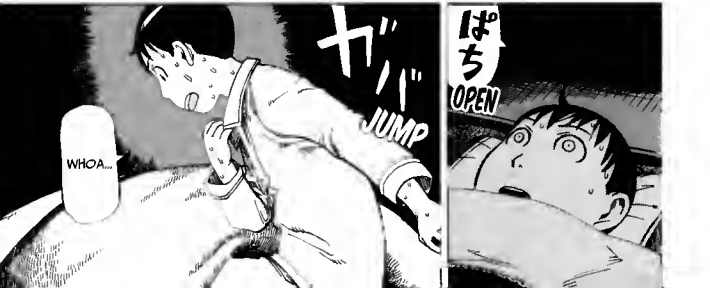

HE CAN'T EAT POT STICKERS.
TAKERU HAS A FEVER!
I BOUGHT TWO BOXES, SO WE CAN EACH HAVE FOUR.
FROM THAT PLACE THAT ALWAYS HAS A LINE.
OH... I FORGOT.

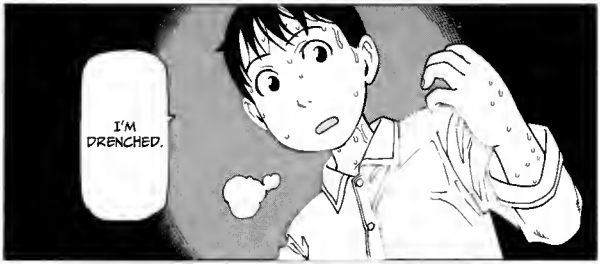
BAG: POT STICKERS, POT STICKY

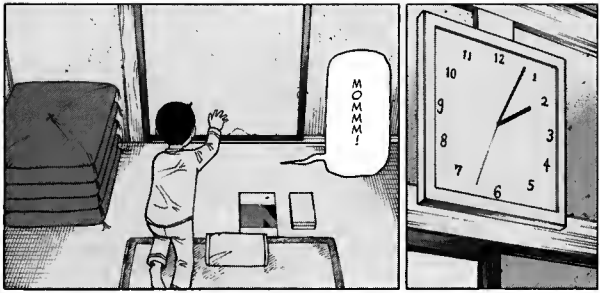




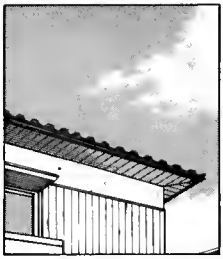
EBI-CHAN.
OH.
SLIP
スッ


ガバ
JUMP
WHOA...
ぱち
OPEN


I'M DRENCHED.


MOMM!

OH, YOU'RE SWEATING HARD.
DID YOUR FEVER BREAK?

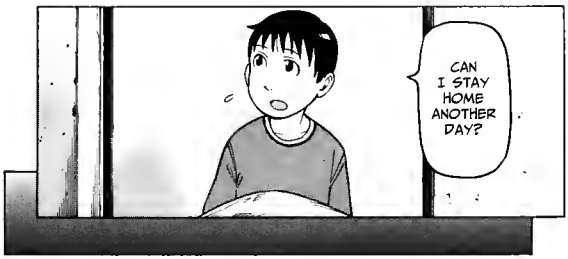


I'M COMPLETELY BETTER NOW...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, TAKERU?

.....

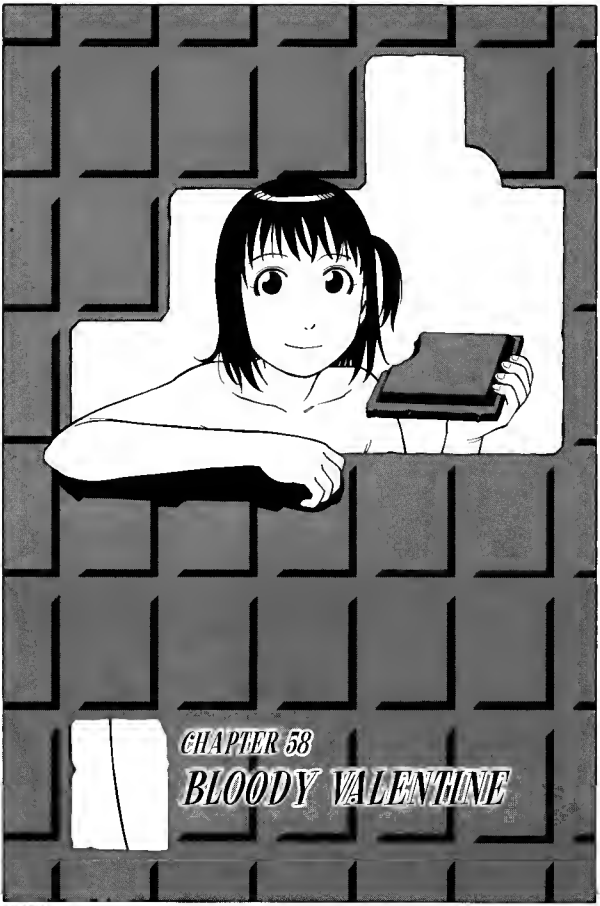
Filly
CATALOGUE 3
FILLY STYLE WINTER



BOOK: MAGICAL CHIKUWA

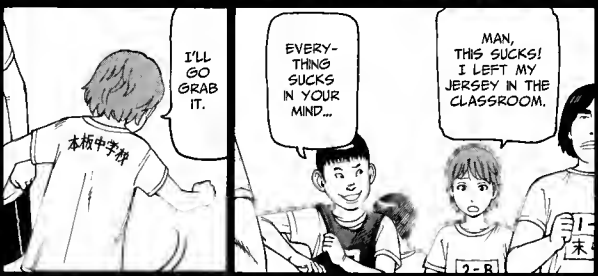
BOOK: COMBAT TEACHER

CHAPTER 45 / END


CHAPTER 58
BLOODY VALENTINE

SIGN: MOTOYA MIDDLE SCHOOL

SHIRTS: MIKAMI, SHINADA, SUZUKI



SHIRT: MOTOYA MIDDLE SCHOOL

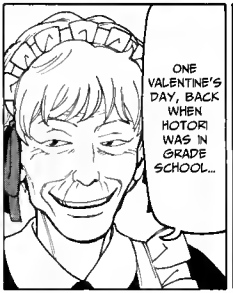
2-B
THIS SUCKS...
ARASHI-YAMA...
OH, THAT'S MY JERSEY.
SQUEEZE
ギュッ
HUH?!

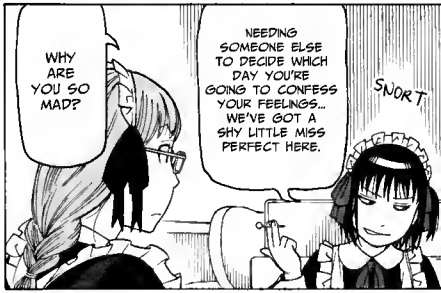
SLAM
SO THAT MEANS SHE'S...
POUND
POUND
POUND

AHHH...
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF RAW FOOD, RAW CARAMEL AND RAW SPRING ROLLS ARE ALSO GOOD.
SO IS RAW PASTA.
IT'S GOOD! RAW CHOCOLATE IS SO GOOD!!
CHOMP
もむもむん
CHOMP
CHOMP
CALM DOWN.
SENBEI: A BAKED RICE CRACKER / MOCHI: A SOFT, STICKY RICE CAKE
SHE'S RIGHT... IT IS A MOCHI.
SPEAKING OF CHOCOLATE, THAT REMINDS ME.
HOW DOES A RAW SENBEI SOUND?
WE COULD MAKE A FORTUNE BY SELLING A NEW LINE OF RAW FOODS!
THAT'S JUST A MOCHI

VALENTINE'S DAY?
...STUPID.

VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING UP.


ONE VALENTINE'S DAY, BACK WHEN HOTORI WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL...

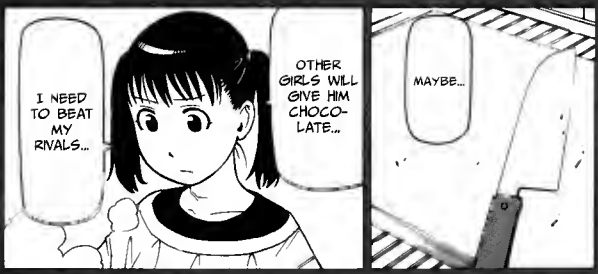

WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
NEEDING SOMEONE ELSE TO DECIDE WHICH DAY YOU'RE GOING TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS... WE'VE GOT A SHY LITTLE MISS PERFECT HERE.
SNORT

...SO WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY?

YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL THEM THAT!!
...SHE WASN'T ABLE TO GIVE CHOCOLATE TO THE BOY SHE LIKED.

SUCH AS HOT CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF COFFEE.
WELL... I WAS THINKING THAT WE COULD DO SOMETHING SPECIAL AT SEASIDE.
WE CAN SERVE PEOPLE CURRY...
USING CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF KETCHUP ON OMELET RICE?
...THAT'S ACTUALLY CHOCO-LATE...
WE'LL LOSE ALL OUR CUSTOM-ERS!
AND YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA...
LIKE THAT?

SIGN: GARBAGE SCHEDULE


I NEED TO BEAT MY RIVALS...
OTHER GIRLS WILL GIVE HIM CHOCO-LATE...
MAYBE...

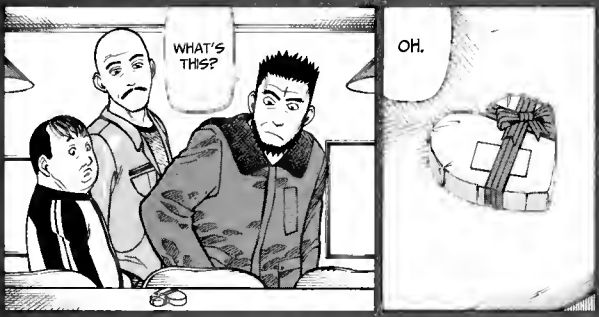
I NEED ADD SOME KIND OF KICK SO THAT I LEAVE AN IMPRESSION.
SECOND IS THE SAME AS LAST.
I HAVE TO BE FIRST.

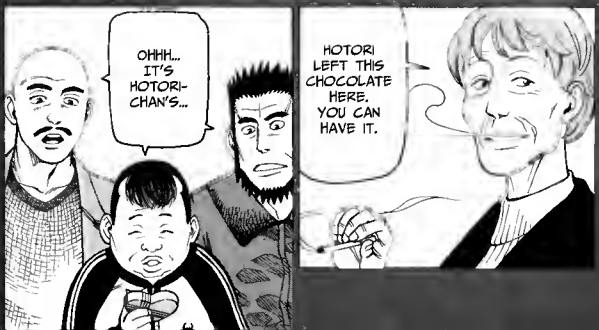
SETSUBUN: A FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF SPRING IN EARLY FEBRUARY. IT FEATURES A RITUAL OF THROWING BEANS TO CLEANSE AND DRIVE AWAY EVIL.

RAKUGAN: HARD, SWEET CAKES PRESSED TO TAKE VARIOUS DECORATIVE SHAPES.

HEHEH... I'M A COWARD.
I MADE CHOCO-LATE, BUT I DIDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM...
COFFEE
SIGN: COFFEE SEA...
I DON'T REALLY LIKE CHOCO-LATE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS CHOCOLATE.
THANKS, GRAN...
HERE, HAVE SOME CURRY.
YOU GET DRUNK ON CURRY.
IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM GIVING HIM CHOCO-LATE.
IT WOULD BE AWKWARD IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT...
BESIDES, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS...
CLATTER
カチャ

'SUP.


WHAT'S THIS?
OH.

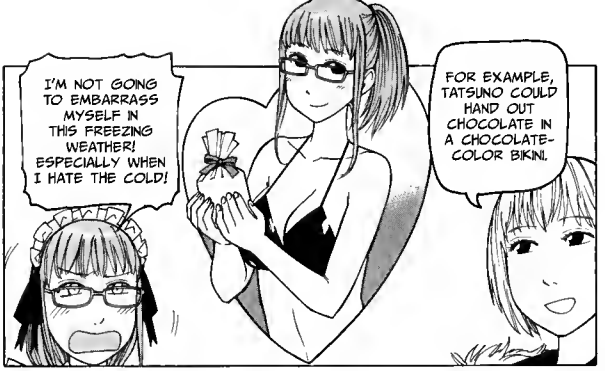

OHHH... IT'S HOTORI-CHAN'S...
HOTORI LEFT THIS CHOCOLATE HERE. YOU CAN HAVE IT.

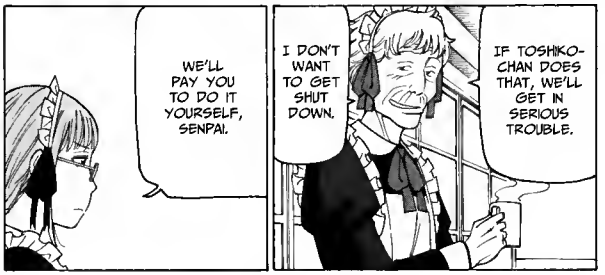
I'LL BE LEAVING, THEN.
WELL...
SLIP

WANNA MAKE THIS A BLOODY VALEN-TINE?!!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?!!
ガス
WHACK

ROCK...
PAPER...
LET'S USE ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS TO DECIDE.

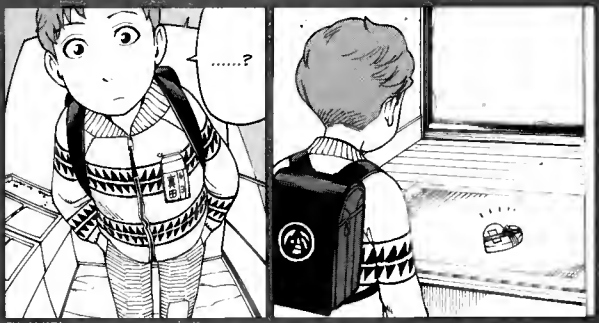
SO, BASICALLY, YOU WANT TO HOLD AN EVENT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY? WHY DON'T YOU GIVE YOUR CUSTOMERS CHOCOLATE?
FOR FREE?
SURE. IT COUNTS AS A PROMOTION, SO YOUR GOAL ISN'T TO MAKE A KILLING.
IG-NOR-ING
THERE'S STILL TIME TO ADVER-TISE...
YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL COME FOR THE CHOCO-LATE?
MAKE A KILL-ING?!
BEATS ME.
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW HARD YOU TRY.
SO WE GIVE THEM CHOCOLATE THAT'S ACTUALLY CURRY?
CAN YOU STOP TRYING TO FAKE PEOPLE OUT?


I'M NOT GOING TO EMBARRASS MYSELF IN THIS FREEZING WEATHER! ESPECIALLY WHEN I HATE THE COLD!
FOR EXAMPLE, TATSUNO COULD HAND OUT CHOCOLATE IN A CHOCOLATE-COLOR BIKINI.


WE'LL PAY YOU TO DO IT YOURSELF, SENPAI.
I DON'T WANT TO GET SHUT DOWN.
IF TOSHIKO-CHAN DOES THAT, WE'LL GET IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

SHRIEK!
IF SENPAI DOES THAT, SHE'LL LOOK LIKE A FLAT BAR OF CHOCOLATE!
HA HA HA!

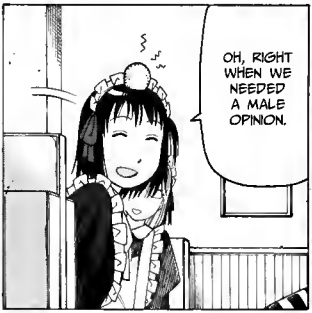
SIGN: SANADA'S FRESH FISH



FN: SANADA

FORM... SHAPE... CONDITION...
UH... FORM...
ジーニス英和辞典
BOOK: JENIS ENGLISH-JAPANESE DICTIONARY
INCIDENTALLY, HOTORI MEANT TO PUT "FROM ARASHIYAMA."
DUDE... I'M GETTING CONFUSED...
ARASHIYAMA'S SHAPE??
CONDITION? CONDITION ARASHIYAMA?
AH!
RUSTLE
カサガサ
RUSTLE
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY?
ANYWAY, ARASHIYAMA MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS OFF.
SIGN: DON'T FORGET TO AIR OUT THE ROOM!

YIKES!!
THAT MASK IS SUPER SCARY—!!
POUND
POUND
ドキドキ
WHAT IS THIS...?
POUND
POUND
POUND
ドッドッドッ
WAIT... WHY DID SHE GIVE ME CHOCO-LATE?
SHAPED LIKE A HEART...
DOES THAT MEAN THIS HEART REPRESENTS THE FORM OF ARASHI-YAMA'S HEART?!
WAIT... IS MY HEART RACING?!


OH, RIGHT WHEN WE NEEDED A MALE OPINION.

カラン
カラン
RATTLE
RATTLE

HUH?

...WOULD YOU COME OUT HERE FOR IT?
HEY, IF I OFFERED TO GIVE YOU CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY...

ER.
YEAH... I GUESS...
AS LONG AS THERE ISN'T A MASK ON IT.
MASK?
...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
SOME KIND OF INTEL-LECTUAL JOKE?
.....
!
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

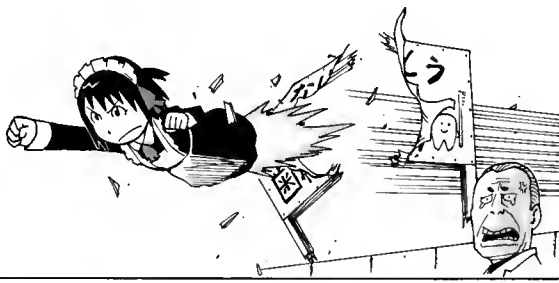
CHAPTER 58 / END

AFTERWORD

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VOLUME 7, BUT I WENT TO A MAID CAFE THE OTHER DAY FOR AN IMPORTANT MEETING. I WAS VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THE MEETING, SO I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT THIS WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO A MAID CAFE UNTIL I WAS ALREADY OUTSIDE. MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE VOLUME 1, WHERE I MENTIONED I'D NEVER BEEN TO A MAID CAFE BEFORE. NOW THAT I'VE HAD THE EXPERIENCE, I MUST SAY THAT IT WAS NOTHING LIKE WHAT I'VE SEEN ON TV. THE MAIDS WORE LONG SKIRTS AND THE CAFE HAD A QUIET ATMOSPHERE. AND NOBODY SAID "WELCOME BACK, MASTER" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

...IN FACT, IT WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO SEASIDE...?

WELL, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE AN INSULT.



SIGN: CAVITIES? NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC

SPECIAL THANKS

SNOWBOARD ADVISOR	***ONODERA KOUJI***
ASSISTANTS	***NAGAHORI KAORU, OGATSU KAZUO, YOSHIDA GOROU***
HELPER	***ARI***

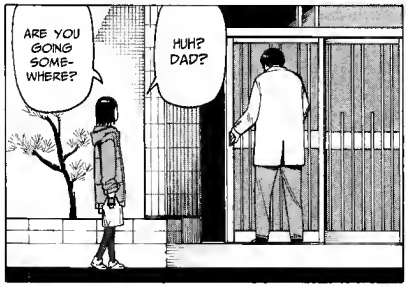
CHAPTER 80 MYSTERIOUS DISK

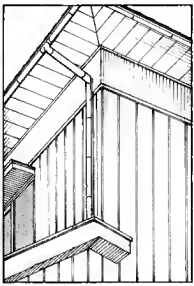
BUT I ACQUIRED THESE THROUGH A SPECIAL ROUTE.
THESE SNEAKERS ARE AN AMERICAN WEST COAST EXCLUSIVE. ONLY 4,000 PAIRS WILL BE SOLD, AT A RETAIL PRICE OF 60,000 YEN EACH.

¥10,000 ABOUT $100

EXCEL-LENT! GO FOR IT!!
I STILL HAVE SOME MONEY LEFT OVER FROM LAST MONTH'S PAYCHECK.
I CAN BUY THESE AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR MYSELF!
I'VE BEEN WEARING THESE SNEAKERS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THEY'RE GETTING OLD...

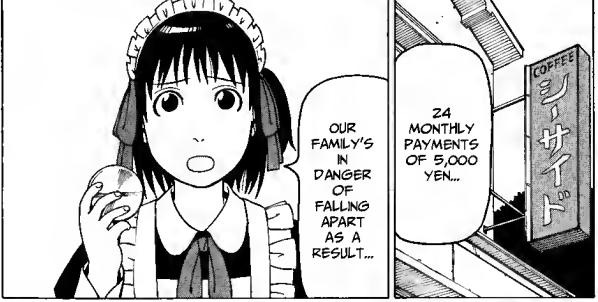
...IS BACK.
—AND THE GUY...
...WHO I BOUGHT SNEAKERS FROM LAST SPRING
THESE SNEAKERS ARE AN AMERICAN WEST COAST EXCLUSIVE.
SALE
...HE'S SELLING THE SAME SNEAKERS...
AND...
.....
.....
.....
ONLY 4,000 PAIRS...

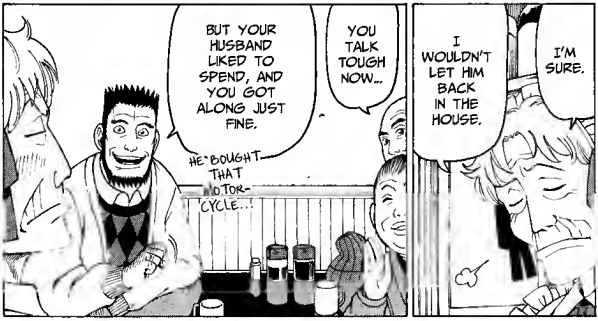




BAG: UNASAKA UNADON (UNADON: BROILED EEL SERVED OVER RICE)

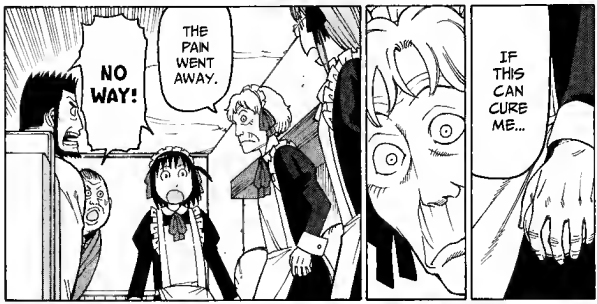
I'M HOME...
DAD JUST...
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
うな丼のうなさか
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
A METAL DISK.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO CURE BACK PAINS IF YOU PLACE IT ON YOUR BODY.
OH...
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT COST?
HMM... 300... NO, 465 YEN!
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.
CLATTER
ガタン
THUD
ゴン
HUNDRED ...?!!


COFFEE
シーサイド
24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF 5,000 YEN...
OUR FAMILY'S IN DANGER OF FALLING APART AS A RESULT...


I'M SURE.
I WOULDN'T LET HIM BACK IN THE HOUSE.
YOU TALK TOUGH NOW...
BUT YOUR HUSBAND LIKED TO SPEND, AND YOU GOT ALONG JUST FINE.
HE BOUGHT THAT MOTOR-CYCLE...

DIAMOND SHARPENER 4,000 YEN
GLINT
ギラ
SILENCE
しーん
シャリ
SCRAPE

MY BACK WENT OUT ON ME A WHILE BACK, SO I HAVE TO WALK FUNNY TO COMPENSATE, AND NOW MY LEG JOINTS ARE KILLING ME...
ON COLD DAYS, I ACHE ALL OVER.
LET ME SEE IF IT WORKS.
HERE.
HUH? ARE YOU IN PAIN?


THE PAIN WENT AWAY.
NO WAY!
IF THIS CAN CURE ME...

I DON'T KNOW IF THE DISK HELPED OR NOT, BUT I FEEL BETTER NOW.
NO WAY.
IT MUST BE THAT... YOU KNOW... JUMBO EFFECT?
YOU MEAN "PLACEBO EFFECT."

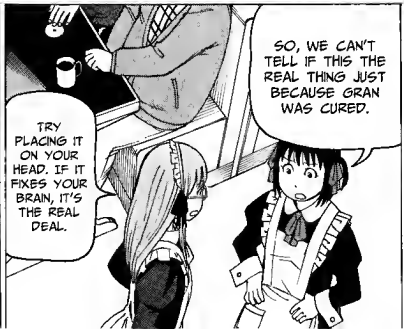
TRY LOOKING THROUGH THIS HOLE.
CAN IT FIX MY EYE-SIGHT?

SLIP
ス…

WOW, TA-TSUN'S SCARY WHEN SHE SNAPS...
BECAUSE I'M LOOKING THROUGH A PIN-HOLE...!!

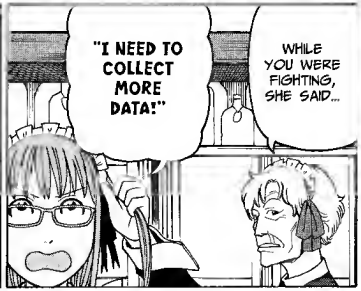
HEY! I CAN SEE PRETTY WELL!

UM, WHERE'S THE DISK?


TRY PLACING IT ON YOUR HEAD. IF IT FIXES YOUR BRAIN, IT'S THE REAL DEAL.
SO, WE CAN'T TELL IF THIS THE REAL THING JUST BECAUSE GRAN WAS CURED.

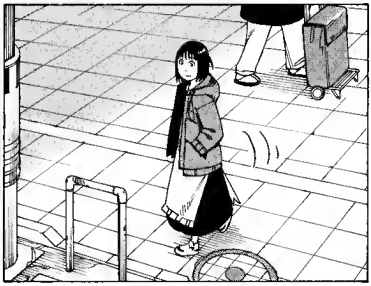
STARE
HUH? WASN'T IT JUST HERE...?
DIDN'T KOBUHEI HAVE IT?
IF YOUR HAIR GROWS BACK, IT'S REAL.
HEY! WHEN DID YOU TURN INTO A KAPPA?!
スポ
POP
KOBUHEI! WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?! I SHAVE MY HEAD!!
YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN LACK OF HAIR!!
ボガッ
WHACK
OOPS...! IS THAT A TOUCHY SUBJECT?

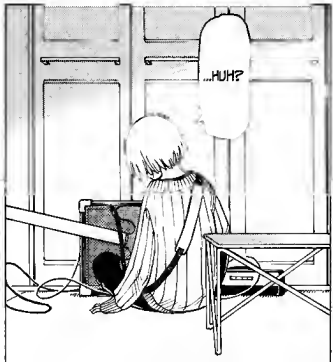
—AND LEFT.


"I NEED TO COLLECT MORE DATA!"
WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING, SHE SAID...

OH? WHERE'S HOTORI-CHAN?

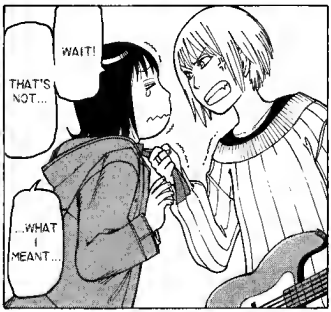
河井荘
KON-SENPAI!




...HUH?

PER-
FECT!
JUST
WHAT
WE
NEED!!

WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM?
OH... MY AMP IS ACTING UP...


WAIT!
THAT'S NOT...
...WHAT I MEANT...

OH...

MY DAD BOUGHT A DISK THAT'S SUPPOSED TO CURE EVERY-THING.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF RITUAL?
GRAN'S BACK STOPPED HURTING IMMEDI-ATELY.

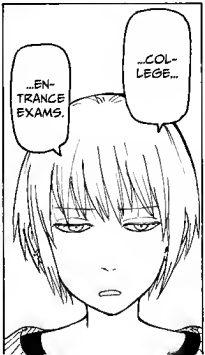
IT'S EASY TO TELL WHEN YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD.
WHAT'S WRONG, SENPAI? YOU SEEM REALLY ON EDGE TODAY.

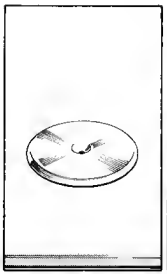
IF YOU SAY SO.

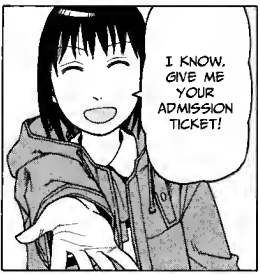
NEXT WEEK IS...
WANNA JOIN US?
THE SHOPPING DISTRICT GANG IS GOING SKIING NEXT WEEK.

I'M NOT IN A BAD MOOD.

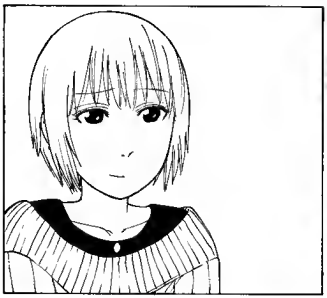
NO, I'M NOT.
YOU MUST BE NERVOUS.
OH... THAT'S WHY.


...EN-TRANCE EXAMS.
...COL-LEGE...





TICKET: NAME: KON FUTABA

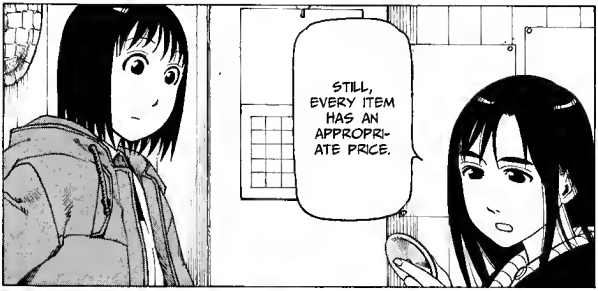


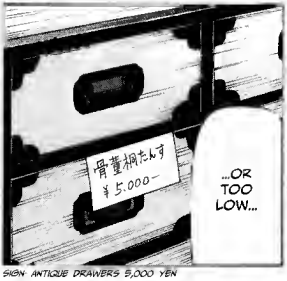
THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE I HAVE IS GRAN'S BACK PAIN...

I HOPE SENPAI IS ACCEPTED ...

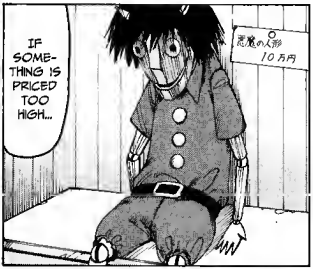
BUILDING: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)

...IT'S PRETTY VALUABLE.
IF IT CAN MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THEIR PAIN IS GONE...
SO IT MIGHT NOT BE FAKE.
DOESN'T TASTE LIKE ANYTHING.
BUT METALS ARE KNOWN TO HOLD STRANGE POWERS ON OCCASION.



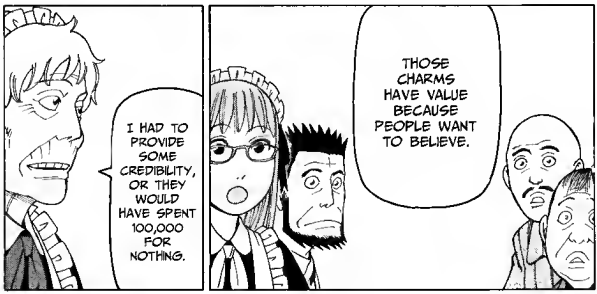


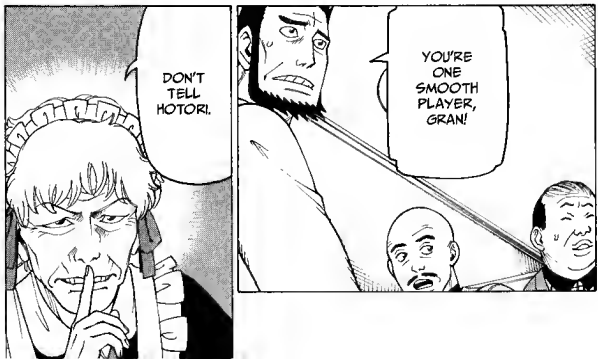
SIGN: ANTIQUE DRAWERS 5,000 YEN



SIGN: DEMONIC DOLL 100,000 YEN

OBVIOUSLY. WE WOULDN'T NEED DOCTORS IF PAIN MAGICALLY WENT AWAY.
YOU WERE LYING ?!!
メイド
喫茶
シーサイ


I HAD TO PROVIDE SOME CREDIBILITY, OR THEY WOULD HAVE SPENT 100,000 FOR NOTHING.
THOSE CHARMS HAVE VALUE BECAUSE PEOPLE WANT TO BELIEVE.

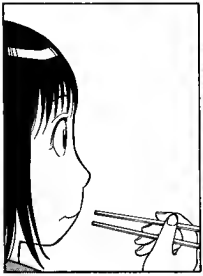

DON'T TELL HOTORI.
YOU'RE ONE SMOOTH PLAYER, GRAN!

WHERE'S DAD?
HE'LL BE HOME LATE TONIGHT.

I'M HOME.

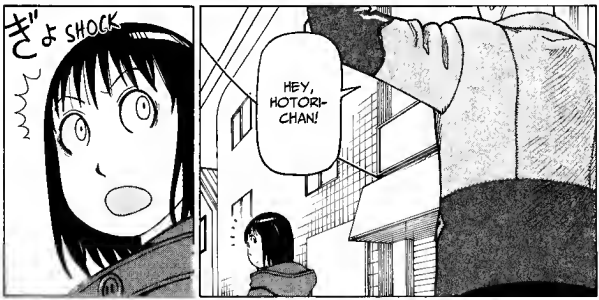
I'VE BEEN CONDUCTING TESTS...
WELL, WE CAN'T BE SURE THAT IT'S FAKE.

SIGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SPENT 100,000 ON A METAL DISK...
I THOUGHT HE HAD BETTER SENSE...



CRACK
くき

I'M GUESS-ING THAT...
...DAD BOUGHT THIS TO HELP YOUR BACK PAIN.
AHA.
...BUT HE REALLY WANTED TO HELP YOU...
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SUSPICIOUS IF HE'D BEEN BUYING IT FOR HIMSELF...
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

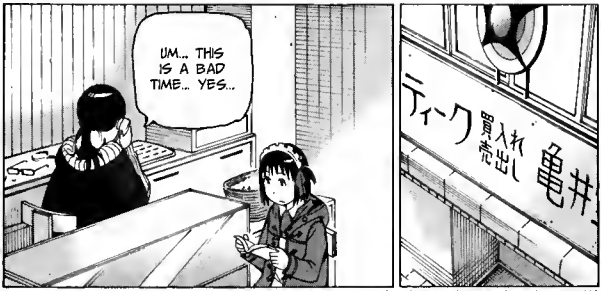


CHAPTER 80 / END

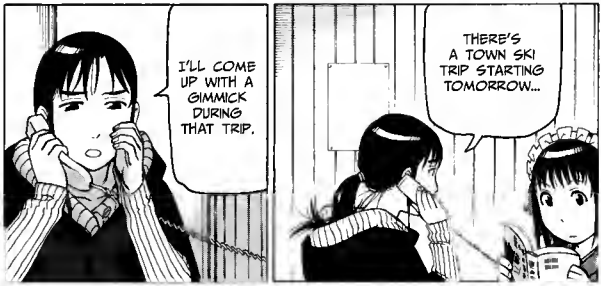
TITLE: FRIENDSHIP

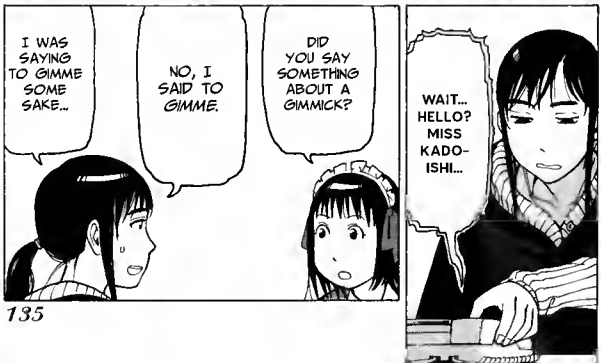
THAT BASS LINE ALWAYS GETS TO ME... I WANT TO SOUND LIKE THIS.
KON-SENPAI IS ACTING WEIRD! CALL AN AMBULANCE ...!
A TRUE FRIEND SHOULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY.
Lily collector

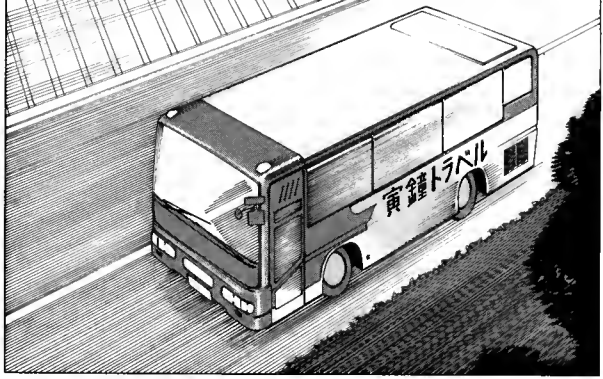
TITLE: SMILE



SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)





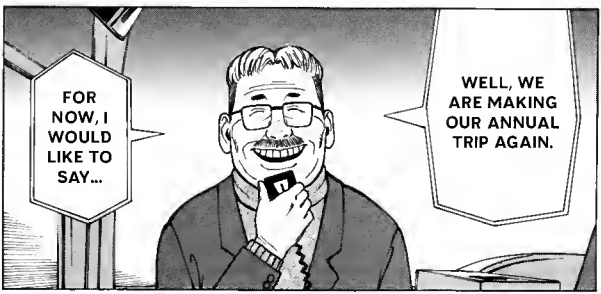


BUS: TRABELL BUS

CHAPTER 57

SOREMACHI SUSPENSE THEATER II

MAIDEN ATTACKED BY BLADE OF ICE? MURDER WEAPON LOST ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN



I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU LOOKED DIFFERENT.
YOU AREN'T WEARING GLASSES!
WE'RE GOING TO USE GOGGLES, SO I'M WEARING CONTACTS.

GLASSES... EYESIGHT... HMM... THAT WON'T WORK.
FOR WHAT?

NOTHING...

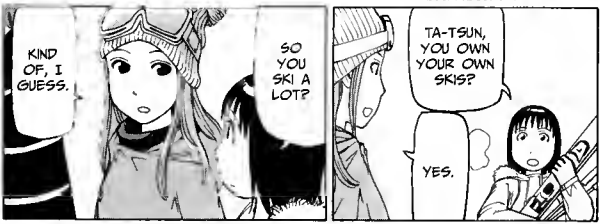
ARE MY GLASSES REALLY SO PROMINENT?!
HOTORI-CHAN, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SKIING?
I WENT SKIING ONCE WHEN I VISITED MY MOM'S RELATIVES.
ANYONE IN THE BACK NEED SOMETHING TO DRINK?
UH... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.

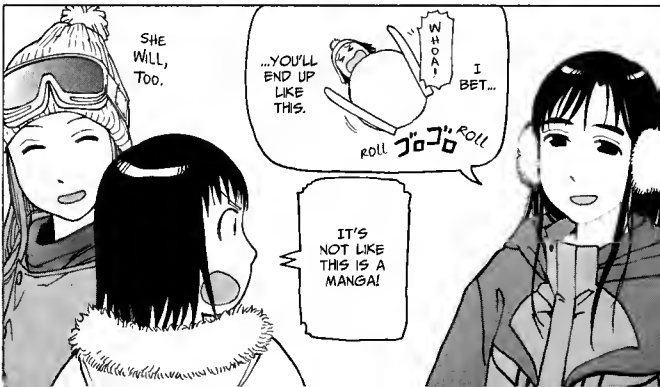
WHOA—! A SNOWY MOUNTAIN!
SNOW!
BRRRR... IT'S COLD...
THE SNOW HERE FEELS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
DIFFERENT SNOW... DIFFERENT LOCATION... TOO WEAK.
YOU'RE GOING TO TRIP, HOTORI-CHAN!

CRUNCH
ザギュ
IT'S LIKE CANDY.
YEAH... OR SOME OTHER SNACK... I WONDER WHAT KIND...?
CRUNCH
ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
CRACK-ERS?
IT'S NOT THAT HARD.
WA-FERS?
HMM...
MAYBE PIE CRUST?
CRUNCH
ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
OOOH... PIE CRUST SOUNDS RIGHT, UMEKO-CHAN.
IT'S TOSHI-KO...
I KNOW!
IT'S LIKE STALE COTTON CANDY!!
NEVER HAD IT BEFORE!!
PUT YOUR STUFF IN YOUR ROOMS SO THAT WE CAN GO RENT SKIS...

I'M 155 CENTI-METERS TALL.
UH... I NEED TO KNOW YOUR FOOT SIZE, NOT YOUR HEIGHT...
MY LEGS ARE... UM...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY IT.
GRAN, YOU RENTED A SNOW-BOARD?!
SIGN: TSURUTSURU SKI RESORT/ RENTAL
弦鶴スキー場
貸しスキー

155CM: ABOUT 5' 1"





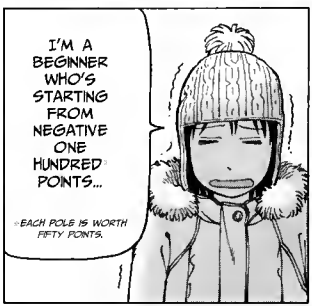
WHEW— WE MADE IT ON THE SKI LIFT.
WHIRR
ゴン
WHIRR
ゴンゴン
WHIRR...
TH- THERE'S SNOT RUNNING FROM MY NOSE!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
ACK! SHOOT!
PBFT...
HOO I' YO'SHEH!
(DO IT YOURSELF!)
HELP...
AT'S ROSH... HERE HA HISSHU.
(THAT'S GROSS... HERE'S A TISSUE.)

HONK!
SNIFF.
I DROPPED MY POLES!!
MAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?
AH!
SOB! WHAT DO I DO...?
THAT WAS DANGEROUS.. YOU COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY HURT SOMEONE WITH THOSE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...
WHAT? YOU DROPPED YOUR POLES?!

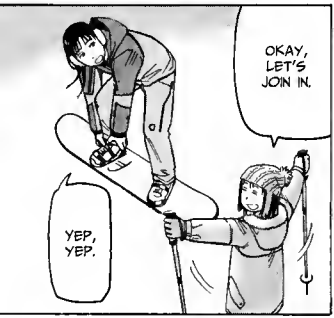
I'VE GOT THIS HUGE HANDICAP NOW...

NO, THAT'S INSANE.
PANT PANT
CARRY ME TO WHERE MY POLES ARE!
ズリ
SLIDE
ズリ
SLIP


I'M A BEGINNER WHO'S STARTING FROM NEGATIVE ONE HUNDRED* POINTS...
*EACH POLE IS WORTH FIFTY POINTS.

"BLOCK-HEAD" WAS A LITTLE HARSH!
ER, DON'T START FLIRTING.
HEY, YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY SNOWBOARD WITH YOUR SKIS...
YOU'RE A MAN. YOU SHOULD BE WILLING TO HELP ME!
YEAH, YOU BLOCK-HEAD!
SOME-WHERE AROUND THE MIDDLE.
WHERE DID YOU DROP THE POLES?
HERE, YOU CAN USE MINE!
THAT WASN'T DIRECTED AT SANADA-KUN...
OH, WAIT...
CRUNCH!
HUH? OH... SURE...
SANADA-KUN, WILL YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR THE POLES?

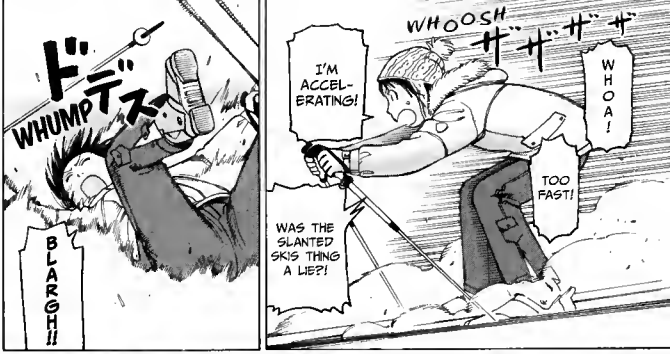
WOW, SHE CAN SKI WITHOUT POLES.


OKAY, LET'S JOIN IN.
YEP, YEP.

サズ GLIDE
SWISH
サーッ

ズズ SLIIIDE
HUUUH?!
...HUH?

...I WON'T ACCELER-ATE.
IF I KEEP MY SKIS SLANTED...
ズズズズ SLIIIDE

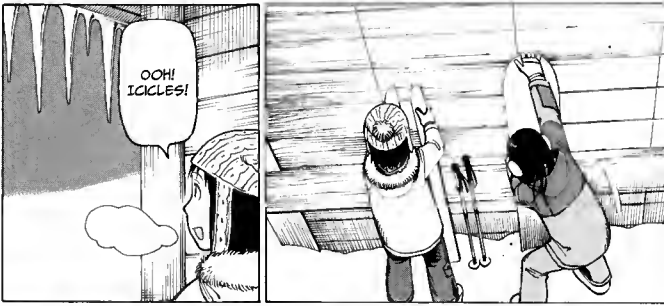

WHUMP
ドデス
BLARGH!!
WHOOSH
ザザザザ
I'M ACCEL-ERATING!
WHOA!
TOO FAST!
WAS THE SLANTED SKIS THING A LIE?!

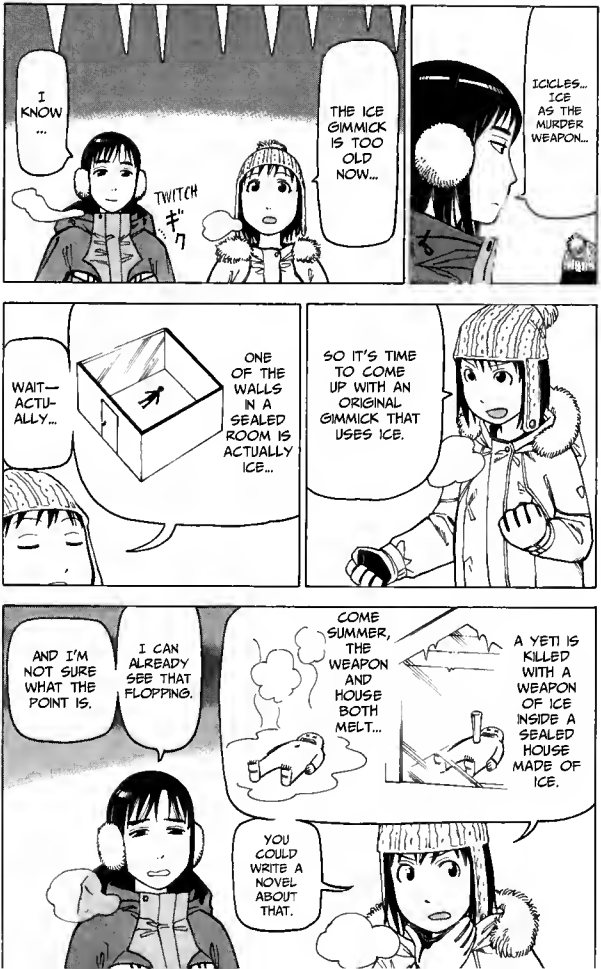
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE LAUGHING AT ME.
AHAHA... "BLARGH"...

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAYS TO GO...
YEAH... SNOW-BOARDING IS REALLY HARD...

BRILLIANT, MY DEAR WATSON.
GOAL
IT'S DANGEROUS TO SLIDE STRAIGHT DOWN THE SLOPE, SO WE SHOULD ZIGZAG TO KEEP OUR SPEED DOWN.
WHOA! I'M GONNA RUN INTO YOU! MOVE!
スソソソ
FLAP FLAP
WHOAAA... WHOAAA...
THIS IS THE ONLY DIRECTION I CAN MOVE...
SHIZUKA-NEECHAN, YOU KEEP MOVING BACK-WARDS.
WHA—?! IT'S OLD ARAI! THAT DOES IT!!
ニャアッ
WHOOSH
'SCUSE ME—

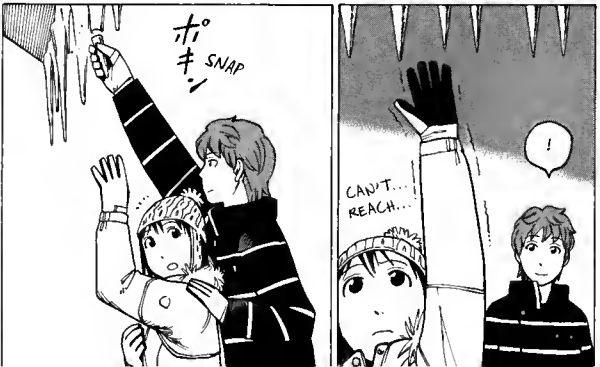
SIGN: ROOM AND BOARD / YAMAGO LODGE



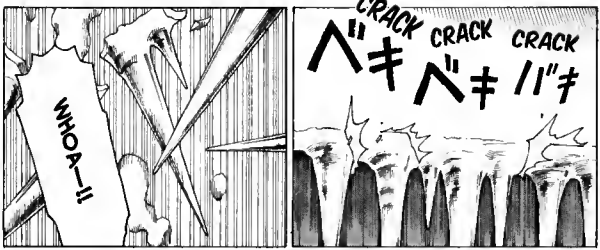

I KNOW...
TWITCH
ギク
THE ICE GIMMICK IS TOO OLD NOW...
ICICLES... ICE AS THE MURDER WEAPON...
WAIT— ACTU- ALLY...
ONE OF THE WALLS IN A SEALED ROOM IS ACTUALLY ICE...
SO IT'S TIME TO COME UP WITH AN ORIGINAL GIMMICK THAT USES ICE.
AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE POINT IS.
I CAN ALREADY SEE THAT FLOPPING.
COME SUMMER, THE WEAPON AND HOUSE BOTH MELT...
A YETI IS KILLED WITH A WEAPON OF ICE INSIDE A SEALED HOUSE MADE OF ICE.
YOU COULD WRITE A NOVEL ABOUT THAT.

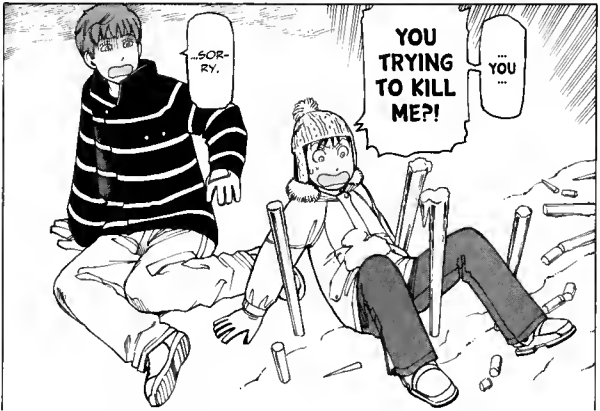
WEL-
COME
BACK.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

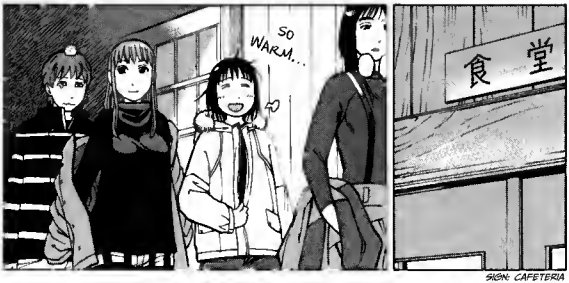
AND IT'S
TA-TSUN.
I MEAN...
TATSUNO.
THE
INTER-
MEDIATE
COURSE.
WE DIDN'T
RUN INTO
EACH
OTHER
AGAIN...
WHERE
WERE
YOU
GUYS,
TA-CHAN?


ポキン
SNAP
CAN'T...
REACH...
!

THERE.
THAT'S IT!


WHOA—!!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
ベキ
ベキ
バキ


...SORRY.
YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
... YOU ...

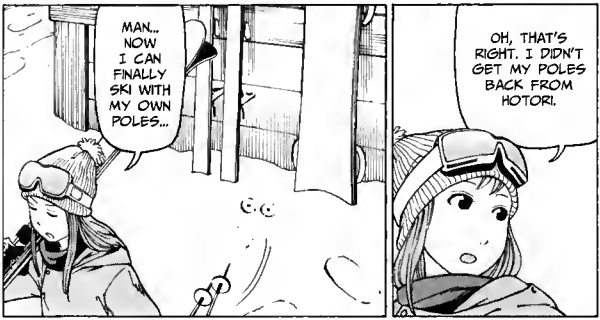


SIGN: CAFETERIA

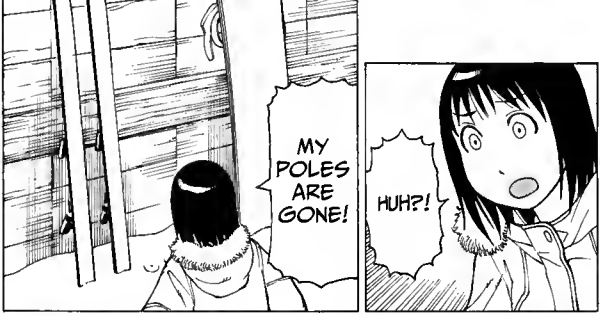
BAG: TRAIL MIX / CAN: STAR

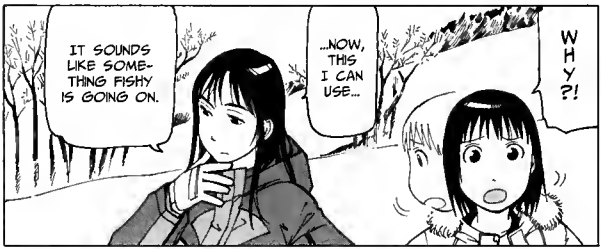
NO WONDER I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF YOU...
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?
I'LL SKI TOMOR-ROW.
I'LL BE GLIDING.
GLIDING INTO A TREE.
...AH...
BWAAAH HA HA HA!
MAN... I DON'T WANT TO GET OLD...
WHEW.
SHIZUKA-CHAN, COME DRINK WITH US. WE EVEN GOT LOCAL BEER.
OH...! SAKE.
BOTTLE: FER MENT

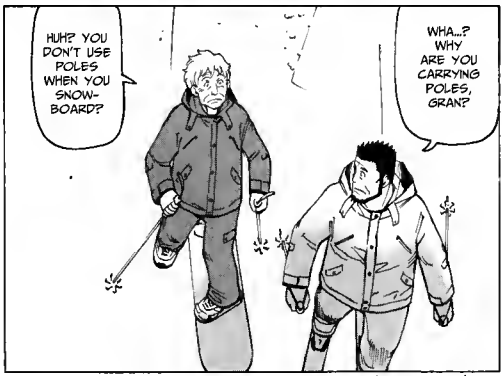
BUILDING: YAMAGO LODGE



CLICK
ガチャ
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
I CAN'T HOLD MY LIQUOR ANYMORE...
HURRY!
EVERY-ONE'S ALREADY LEFT!
YOU'RE SO CHEERFUL. MY BACK AND MY BUTT ARE KILLING ME...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING BACK-WARDS!
CLICK
ガチャ
HEYA.
TWO SUNNY DAYS IN A ROW.
BE-CAUSE I'M A SUNNY GIRL.



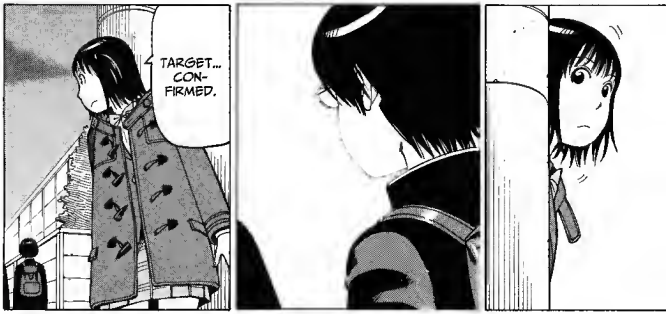


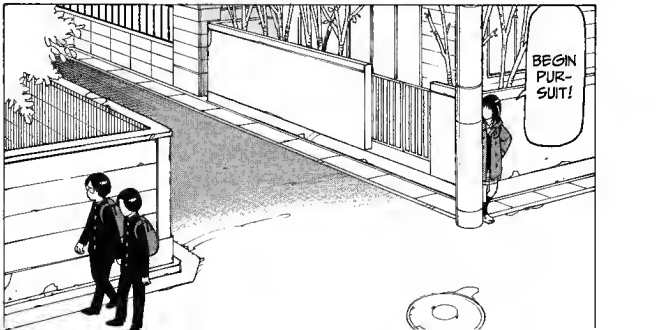


CHAPTER 57 / END

CHAPTER 92 NIGHT STALKER

SIGN: SOUTH THIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL





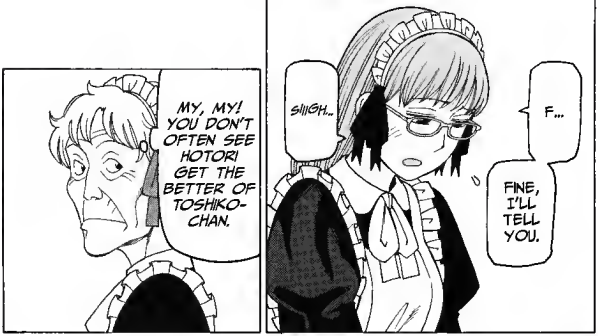
BOOK MOCK
ブック・モック
TARGET HAS ENTERED A BOOK STORE.
IT LOOKS TO BE A GOOD, OLD TOWN BOOK-SHOP.
BOOK MOCK
ブック・モック
I'D LIKE THAT KIND OF PLACE TO SURVIVE.
MAYBE I'LL BUY SOME-THING THERE ON MY WAY BACK.
WERE THERE ANY BOOKS I PLANNED TO GET THIS MONTH..?
WHAT THE... HUH?
HUH?
コミック プリズム
BETA BOY 4

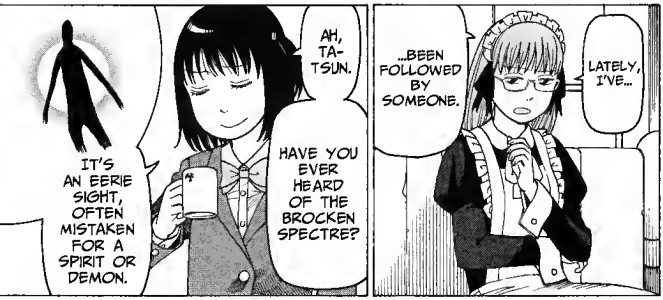
POSTER: COMIC PRISM

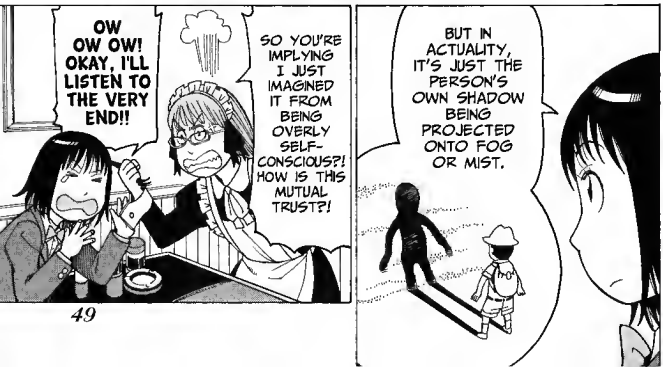
SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE

GIVE ME A BREAK!!
I TAILED HIM TO THE NEXT TOWN FOR YOU WITHOUT EVER BEING TOLD THE REASON WHY!
WHO'RE YOU CALLING SHODDY, YOU FOUR-EYED DONNY-MATRIX?!
WHAT KIND OF INSULT IS THAT?

HIRING A DETEC-TIVE RE-QUIRES MUTUAL TRUST, RIGHT?!
IF YOU CAN'T TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK FOR YOU.
URG...

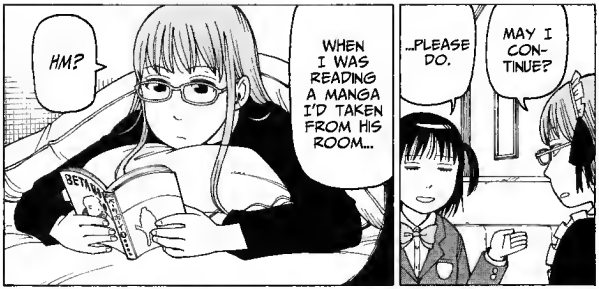

MY, MY! YOU DON'T OFTEN SEE HOTORI GET THE BETTER OF TOSHIKO-CHAN.
SIIIGH...
F...
FINE, I'LL TELL YOU.

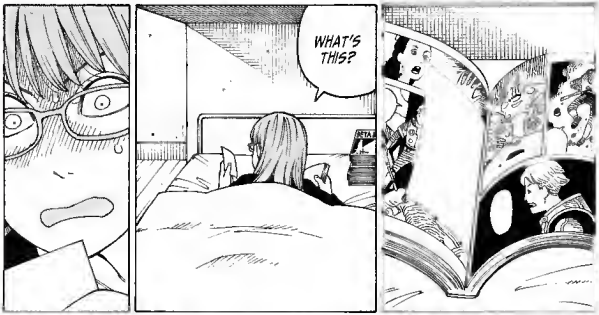

AH, TA-TSUN.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE BROCKEN SPECTRE?
IT'S AN EERIE SIGHT, OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A SPIRIT OR DEMON.
...BEEN FOLLOWED BY SOMEONE.
LATELY, I'VE...


OW OW OW! OKAY, I'LL LISTEN TO THE VERY END!!
SO YOU'RE IMPLYING I JUST IMAGINED IT FROM BEING OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS?! HOW IS THIS MUTUAL TRUST?!
BUT IN ACTUALITY, IT'S JUST THE PERSON'S OWN SHADOW BEING PROJECTED ONTO FOG OR MIST.

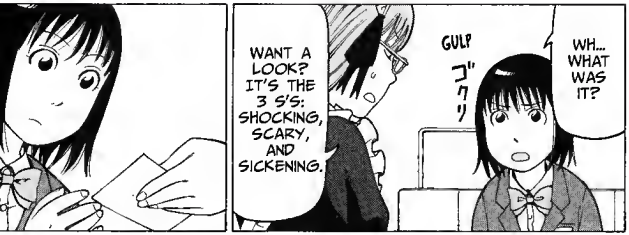
AT FIRST, I ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.
BOOK: HELLE
BUT I SOON FOUND THAT...

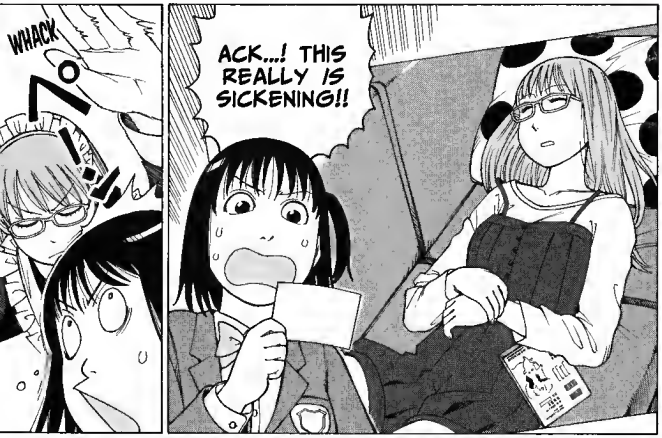
BETABOY
ALSO, ONE DAY...
...A GUY IN A MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORM HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND!
WAIT RIGHT THERE!
...WHEN I WAS READING A MANGA I'D BORROWED FROM MY LITTLE BROTHER'S ROOM...
WHAT IF HE WENT INTO *YOUR* ROOM WITHOUT ASKING?
WELL, I'D FLIP OUT, OF COURSE.
IS THAT BAD?
YOU JUST WENT INTO YOUR BROTHER'S ROOM AND TOOK SOMETHING, WITHOUT ASKING?


HM?
BETA
WHEN I WAS READING A MANGA I'D TAKEN FROM HIS ROOM...
...PLEASE DO.
MAY I CONTINUE?

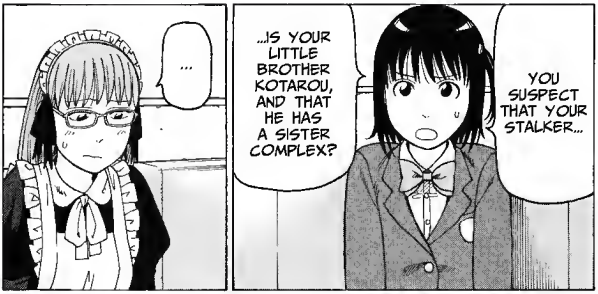

WHAT'S THIS?
BETA

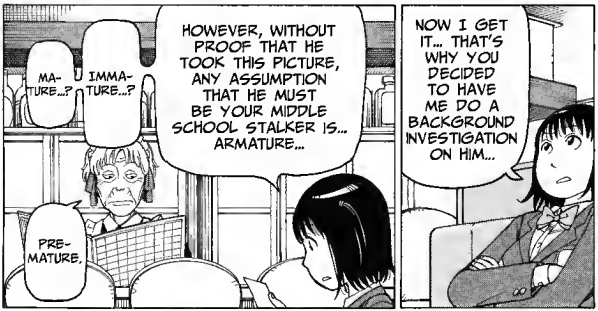
GYAAAAAH!


WANT A LOOK? IT'S THE 3 S'S: SHOCKING, SCARY, AND SICKENING.
GULP
ゴクリ
WH... WHAT WAS IT?


WHACK
ACK...! THIS REALLY IS SICKENING!!

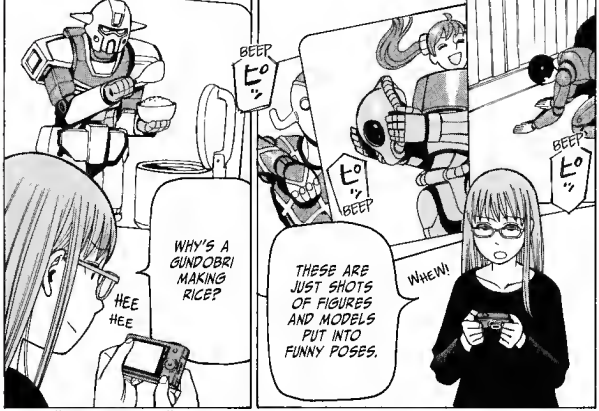
TO SUM UP...
I WASN'T SAYING I THINK YOU LOOK SICKENING WHILE YOU'RE ASLEEP!
Kinda sexy, actually.
THE STORY GETS REALLY COMPLICATED, SO WOULD YOU QUIT MAKING JOKEY COMMENTS?!


...
...IS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER KOTAROU, AND THAT HE HAS A SISTER COMPLEX?
YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR STALKER...

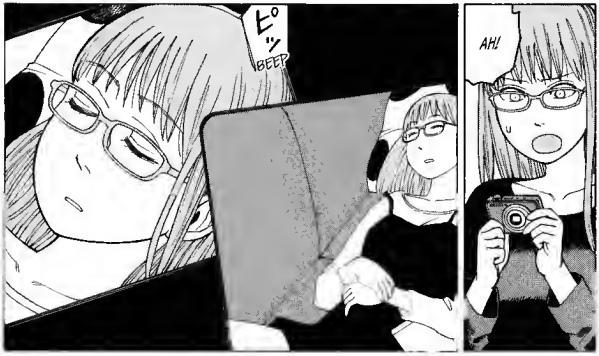

HOWEVER, WITHOUT PROOF THAT HE TOOK THIS PICTURE, ANY ASSUMPTION THAT HE MUST BE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STALKER IS... ARMATURE...
MA-TURE...?
IMMA-TURE...?
PRE-MATURE.
NOW I GET IT... THAT'S WHY YOU DECIDED TO HAVE ME DO A BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION ON HIM...

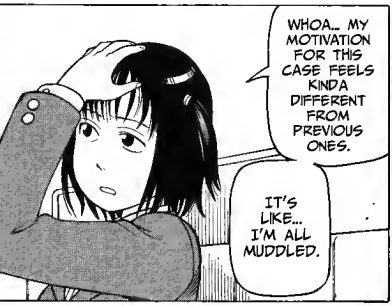
THIS IS... THE LIVING ROOM SOFA...
WHICH MEANS... A FAMILY MEMBER TOOK THE PHOTO?
OF COURSE I FELT THE SAME WAY. IN FACT, I PRAYED REALLY HARD THAT IT WASN'T HIM.

I STILL NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW...
OH!
THIS PHOTO WAS PRODUCED BY A DIGITAL CAMERA PRINTER.
WHICH MEANS...
...HERE'S THE DIGITAL CAMERA!
虎太郎
SIGN: KOTAROU
FOUND IT!
LET'S SEE... TO VIEW THE DATA...
ピピ BEEP BEEP
ニーッ WHIRR



※A MECH APPEARING IN THE ANIME MOBILE INFANTRY GUNDOBRI

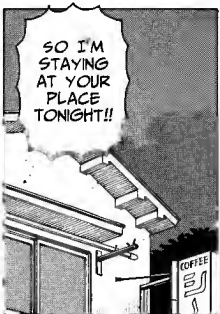



WHOA... MY MOTIVATION FOR THIS CASE FEELS KINDA DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS ONES.
IT'S LIKE... I'M ALL MUDDLED.

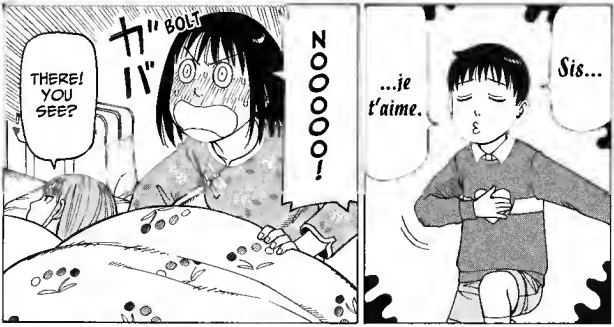
NO WAY...

I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, SO YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A JUNIOR DETECTIVE, RIGHT?!
I'M TOO GROSSED OUT TO GO HOME!!

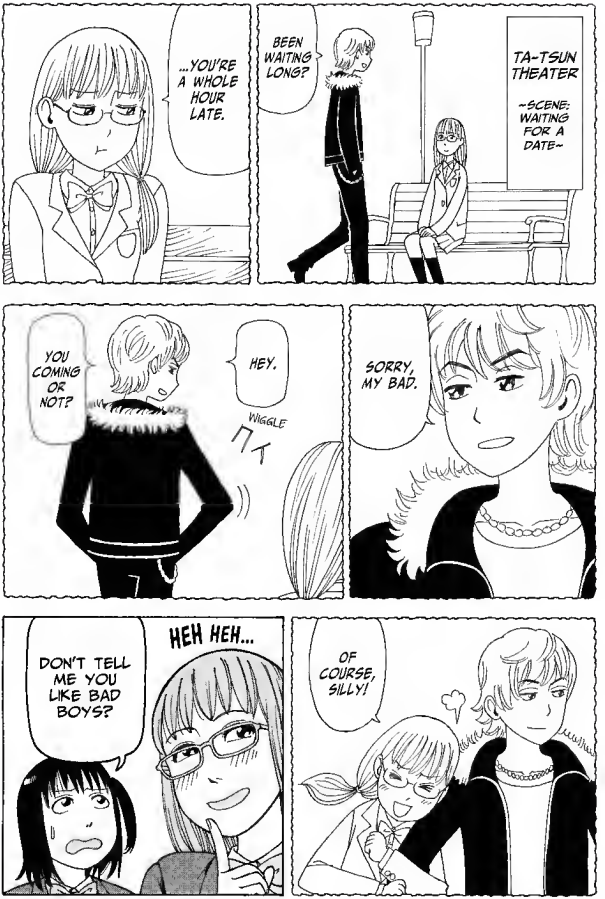
...COULD HE BE STALKING HIS OWN SISTER NOW? HE IS PRETTY MESSED UP ALREADY.
STILL... CONSIDERING HOW MUCH OF A SHUT-IN YOUR BROTHER WAS LAST WINTER BREAK...


SO I'M STAYING AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT!!
COFFEE

TRY IMAGINING YOURSELF IN MY PLACE.
AND COMMON IN MYTHS AND NOVELS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A BROTHER FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIS SISTER? IT'S HUMAN.
WHO THE HECK DECIDED WHAT SHOULD BE TABOO FOR PEOPLE, ANYWAY?


THERE! YOU SEE?
カ" BOLT "パ
NOOOOO!
...je t'aime.
Sis...

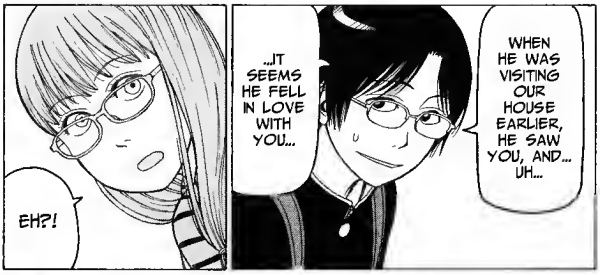
THIS IS MORE OF A PLAN B...
...BUT HOW ABOUT WE CONVINCE YOUR BROTHER THAT YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
LIKE WITH MANGA HEROINES, IT ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE THE GUY GETS DISAPPOINTED WHEN A FORMER BOYFRIEND SHOWS UP.
WELL, THAT COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO SHOCK A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER BACK TO SANITY, THOUGH.
HM...
AT THIS POINT, I THINK SECRETLY PUTTING OUT FEELERS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE.
I'LL TRY ASKING SANADA TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR BOYFRIEND, WHILE HIDING THE FACT THAT THE STALKER IS YOUR BROTHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE TATSUNO FAMILY HONOR.
!

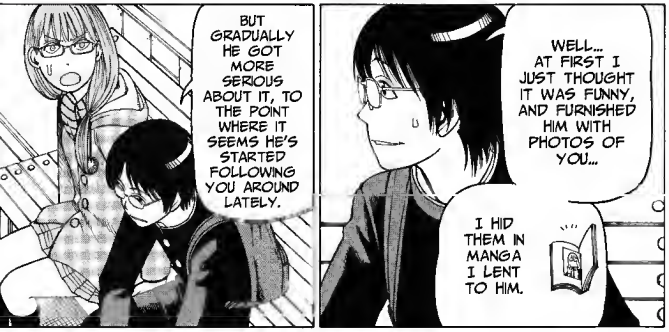

...YOU'RE A WHOLE HOUR LATE.
BEEN WAITING LONG?
TA-TSUN THEATER
~SCENE: WAITING FOR A DATE~
YOU COMING OR NOT?
HEY.
WIGGLE
SORRY, MY BAD.
DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE BAD BOYS?
HEH HEH...
OF COURSE, SILLY!

IF YOUR BROTHER SHOWS UP, JUST STAY THERE! YOUR BOYFRIEND WILL COME RUNNING TO YOU REAL SOON!
BOOK MOCK
ブック・モック
コツ
TAP
UGH... IT'S COLD...

HEY, SIS.
KOTA...
WELL... THAT'S FINE. RIGHT NOW, I'M ALONE... SO IT'S THE PERFECT TIME.
I NOTICED YOU DIDN'T COME HOME YESTER-DAY.

I'VE GOT THIS FRIEND NAMED SASAMOTO KYOUICHI...
YOU KNOW HIM?
TH-THE KID YOU BRING HOME ONCE IN A WHILE?
I DON'T REMEM-BER HIM VERY WELL...

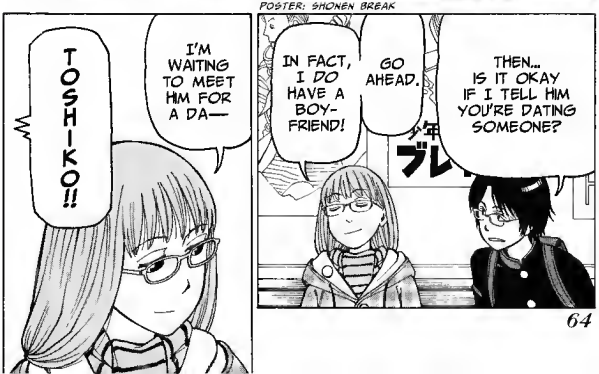

WHEN HE WAS VISITING OUR HOUSE EARLIER, HE SAW YOU, AND... UH...
...IT SEEMS HE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU...
EH?!


WELL... AT FIRST I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY, AND FURNISHED HIM WITH PHOTOS OF YOU...
I HID THEM IN MANGA I LENT TO HIM.
BUT GRADUALLY HE GOT MORE SERIOUS ABOUT IT, TO THE POINT WHERE IT SEEMS HE'S STARTED FOLLOWING YOU AROUND LATELY.

YOU...
...SECRETLY TOOK PHOTOS OF ME AND GAVE THEM TO THAT KID?!
NO...! I DID TAKE ONE OF YOU WITHOUT ASKING, BUT I HAVEN'T GIVEN IT TO HIM YET!
Was it leaked?!
BUT... I'M SORRY IT'S GONE THIS FAR...

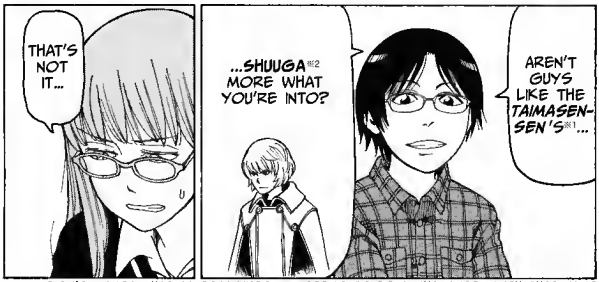
AND SO... I WAS THINKING THAT AT THIS POINT, I SHOULD EITHER INTRODUCE YOU PROPERLY, OR MAKE HIM GIVE UP...
TWO YEARS YOUNGER...
WHAT KIND OF KID IS HE AGAIN?

POSTER: SHONEN BREAK

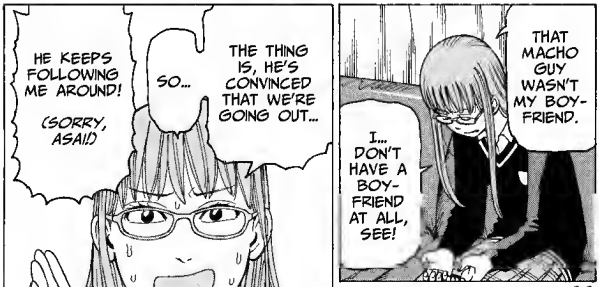

THEN... IS IT OKAY IF I TELL HIM YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE?
GO AHEAD.
IN FACT, I DO HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
I'M WAITING TO MEET HIM FOR A DA—
TOSHIKO!!

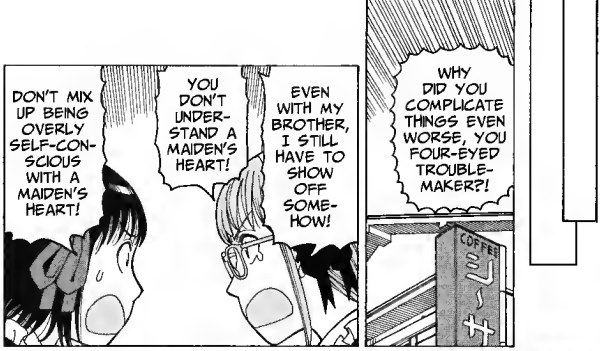
FOR ONE SUCH AS I...
アサーイ
ASAAA-I
...TO MAKE A LADY WAIT, IS TO HAVE COMMITTED A TERRIBLE FAUX PAS!
SORRY!! I COULDN'T GET SANADA! PLEASE FORGIVE THE STAND-IN!!
WELL, THEN...?
SHALL I CONVEY YOU SOME-PLACE WHERE YOU CAN VIEW AN OCEAN OF STARS?
OR WOULD YOU PREFER ANOTHER OF MY VARIOUS PLANS...?
UM... SORRY, BUT SHE RAN AWAY.
HUH?

NAMEPLATE: TATSUNO



※1: BOY'S MANGA THAT TA-TSUN LIKES ※2: SEEMS TO BE A CHARACTER WITH THAT NAME


HE KEEPS FOLLOWING ME AROUND!
(SORRY, ASAI!)
SO...
THE THING IS, HE'S CONVINCED THAT WE'RE GOING OUT...
I... DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND AT ALL, SEE!
THAT MACHO GUY WASN'T MY BOY-FRIEND.


DON'T MIX UP BEING OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS WITH A MAIDEN'S HEART!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A MAIDEN'S HEART!
EVEN WITH MY BROTHER, I STILL HAVE TO SHOW OFF SOMEHOW!
WHY DID YOU COMPLICATE THINGS EVEN WORSE, YOU FOUR-EYED TROUBLEMAKER?!
COFFEE

WHAT?! THEN...
...I'LL FIND THAT GUY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
HEY...
SIS TOLD ME THERE'S A STRANGE GUY FOLLOWING HER AROUND.
WELL... AT LEAST IT ISN'T ALL MUDDLED NOW, RIGHT?

CHAPTER 92 / END

CHAPTER 44 TELL-IT-LIKE IT IS

BLACK BOTTLE: HAIR GROWTH KING / GREY BOTTLE: LIQUID SKIN

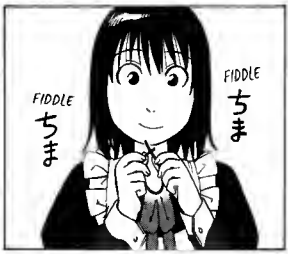
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
SIGN: MAID CAFÉ SEASIDE
HOTORI-CHAN LOOKS MORE MATURE THESE DAYS...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HER HAIR'S GOTTEN LONGER.

HEH, YOU'RE WATCHING HER CLOSELY, HIRO-CHAN~!!
ピク
TWITCH
OH—!
THAT'S IT!

RIGHT.
MUTTER
ホ…
MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOTICE.
I'M NOT!

WHERE'S MY BAND?
...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
BAND, BAND!
IT'S GONE...
HUH?

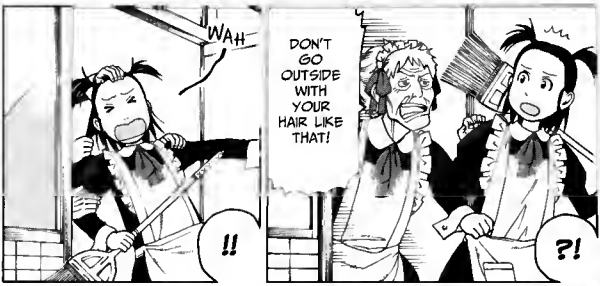
CONTAINER ON SHELF: BLACK DRAGON



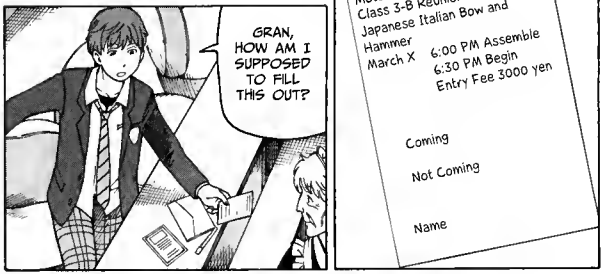
A MAID'S FACE IS HER MOST IMPORTANT ASSET!
PAIN ...
OWIE!!
ばちぃ
THWACK
OH?
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.
OH, DEAR.
YOUR FACE LOOKS AWFUL.
WHAAAT?
!!
WHERE DID YOU HIT YOURSELF?
...SO.

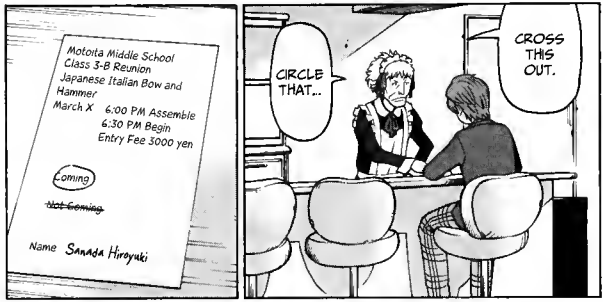
メイド
喫茶
シー
MAID CAFE SEASIDE.
OH, THERE IT IS.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND... AND SMALL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
NO, NO, NO!
LET'S GO!
I SAID ON MY BLOG YESTERDAY THAT WE WERE GOING...
"INVESTIGATION OF MYSTERIOUS MAID CAFE TOMORROW!" WAS THE POST TITLE.
RATTLE
RATTLE
カラン
カラン
!

WHOA, A REALLY WEIRD GIRL CAME OUT.
OKAY, ANOTHER DAY ON THE JOB!


WAH
!!
DON'T GO OUTSIDE WITH YOUR HAIR LIKE THAT!
?!

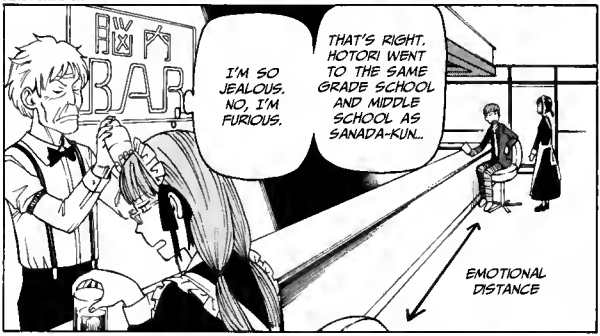
YOU DON'T HAVE A LITTLE SISTER.
I'LL SAY THAT MY LITTLE SISTER HAD A BIRTHDAY PARTY TODAY.
メイ
喫
シ~サ
パパン…
しーん
SILENCE

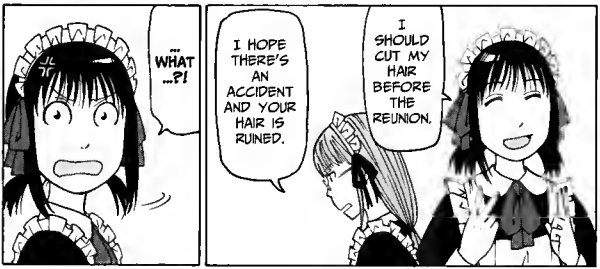

GRAN, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FILL THIS OUT?
Motoita Middle School
Class 3-B Reunion
Japanese Italian Bow and Hammer
March X 6:00 PM Assemble
6:30 PM Begin
Entry Fee 3000 yen
Coming
Not Coming
Name


Motoita Middle School
Class 3-B Reunion
Japanese Italian Bow and Hammer
March X 6:00 PM Assemble
6:30 PM Begin
Entry Fee 3000 yen
Coming
Not Coming
Name Sanada Hiroyuki
CIRCLE THAT...
CROSS THIS OUT.

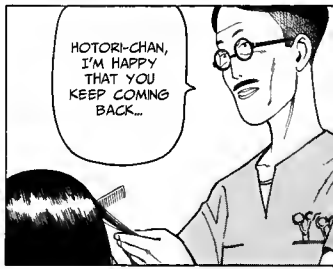
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ...
YEAH.
CLASS RE-UNION?

SIGN: MENTAL BAR


BAR
I'M SO JEALOUS. NO, I'M FURIOUS.
THAT'S RIGHT. HOTORI WENT TO THE SAME GRADE SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL AS SANADA-KUN...
EMOTIONAL DISTANCE



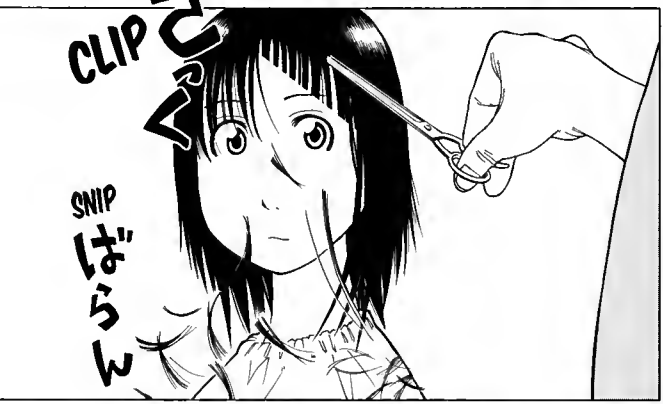
SIGN: SHIMOZAWA BARBERSHOP



HMM.
OH, FOR MY HAIR.
TO GET YOUR HAIR DONE.
WELL, I TRUST YOU...
...MORE THAN I TRUST SOME HOT-SHOT BEAUTICIAN...
WHY DO YOU ASK?!
ARE YOU GOING TO CLOSE YOUR BARBER-SHOP?!
じーん
SNIFFLE
I WON'T.

ARF!
WHOA!
シャー
WHOOSH
WINDOW: SHIMOZAWA
AAAA!
OH, SORRY.
ガシャーン
CRASH

ゴキブリ


CLIP
ざく
SNIP
ばらん

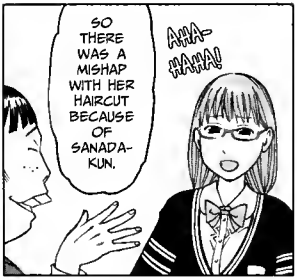
.....
...HUH?

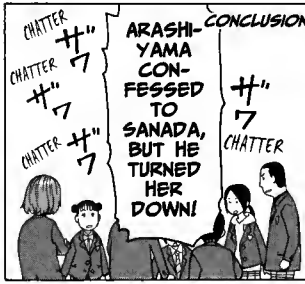
FASHION STORE
MARILYN
MARU
MURAKAMI
THE BUTCHER
WHOA!

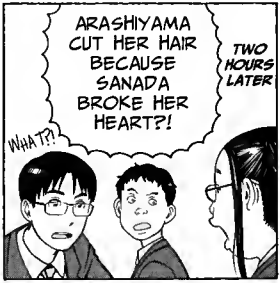
SILENCE
IS THAT YOU, HOTORI?!!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR HAIR?!!
...YOU LOOK CUTE...
!!
LIKE A MON-KEY!
R-RE-ALLY?

.....
WELL, IT'S ALL SANADA'S FAULT...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?!

ARASHIYAMA CUT HER HAIR BECAUSE SANADA SCREWED UP?
ONE HOUR LATER
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?


SO THERE WAS A MISHAP WITH HER HAIRCUT BECAUSE OF SANADA-KUN.
AHA-HAHA!


CONCLUSION
ARASHI-YAMA CON-FESSED TO SANADA, BUT HE TURNED HER DOWN!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


ARASHIYAMA CUT HER HAIR BECAUSE SANADA BROKE HER HEART?!
TWO HOURS LATER
WHAT?!

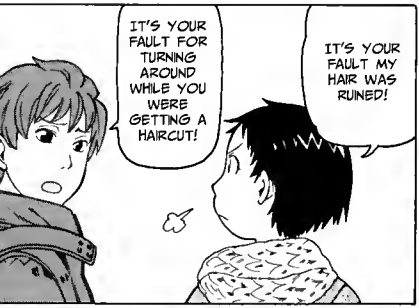
YOU LIKED SANADA-KUN?!
WHAAAAAT?!

DUMP, DUMPED, LIFE IS DARK.
...FALL, FALL, FALL, FALL UNTIL DEATH ENDS ALL.
ラーメン虎馬
...450 YEN
LIGER RAMEN 500 YEN
RAMEN 200

WE CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAP-PENED!!
...THE MISUN-DER-STAND-ING!!
LET'S CLEAR UP...

WELL... IT WOULD LOOK WEIRD IF A DUMPER* AND DUMPEE* WENT HOME TOGETHER.
*DUMPER: A PERSON WHO DUMPED SOMEONE
*DUMPEE: A PERSON WHO WAS DUMPED BY SOMEONE

I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL YOU WERE GONE BEFORE I COULD LEAVE SCHOOL!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT...?

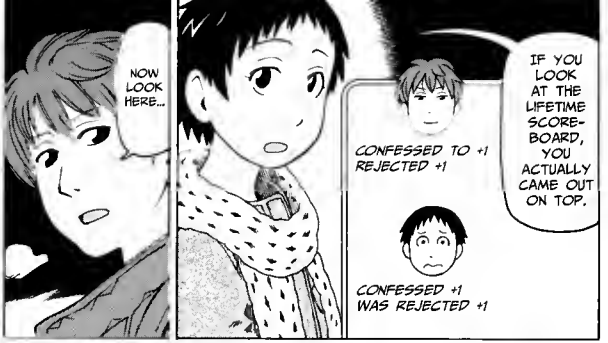

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR TURNING AROUND WHILE YOU WERE GETTING A HAIRCUT!
IT'S YOUR FAULT MY HAIR WAS RUINED!

WHY DO I HAVE TO FEEL BAD WHEN I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...?

REALLY NOW? I'M PRETTY SURE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO THE SUPREME COURT...
SO BOTH OF US REFUSE TO BUDGE.

AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DUMPED ME.
SO WHY ARE YOU COM-PLAINING?

WELL, THEY SAY THAT A RUMOR DIES AFTER EIGHTY-EIGHT NIGHTS.
...SEVEN-TY-FIVE DAYS.


NOW LOOK HERE...
CONFESSED TO +1
REJECTED +1
IF YOU LOOK AT THE LIFETIME SCORE-BOARD, YOU ACTUALLY CAME OUT ON TOP.
CONFESSED +1
WAS REJECTED +1

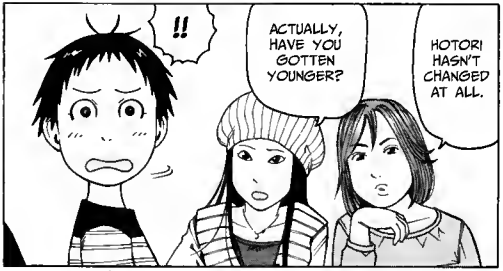
HUH?
I WOULDN'T TURN YOU DOWN IF YOU CON-FESSED.
...SEE.

.....
SO I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK THAT I SHOT YOU DOWN!

BUT I HAVE TO ACT TO MAKE THAT A REALITY.
HOPE-FULLY, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS.
GRIN
ニヤ
GRIN
U-UH...
YOU SEE, I...
ビュウウ
HOWL
THE WIND IS BEHIND MY BACK!
GO!! MAKE THE BEST OF THIS SITUATION!!
和風イタリアン
弩槌屋
JAPANESE ITALIAN BOW AND HAMMER
HOWL
ビュウウゥ
...HEY! WE'RE HERE. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SIGN: JAPANESE ITALIAN BOW AND HAMMER

SIGN: MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-B REUNION, RESERVED



CHAPTER 44 / END

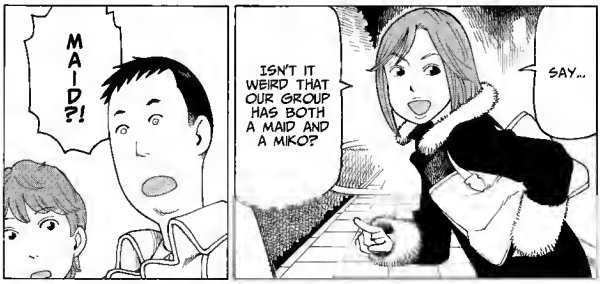
FUTON
AN EVIL INVENTION THAT CAN COMPLETELY DESTROY A HUMAN...
MOAN
KONDO SHUSAKU THE SEA AND STRAWBERRY
FRISON TRIP
WAKE UP ALREADY!!

CHAPTER 128 TIME BOMB

SIGN: JAPANESE ITALIAN BOW AND HAMMER
本板中学校
3年B組同窓会
様
OKAY, THEN.
IT'S TIME!
和風イタリアン
弩槌屋
SIGN: MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-B REUNION, RESERVED
LET'S GET THE MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-B REUNION STARTED!
WA HA HA HA HA
ARASHIYAMA, WILL YOU WATCH THE TIME FOR US?
OH!

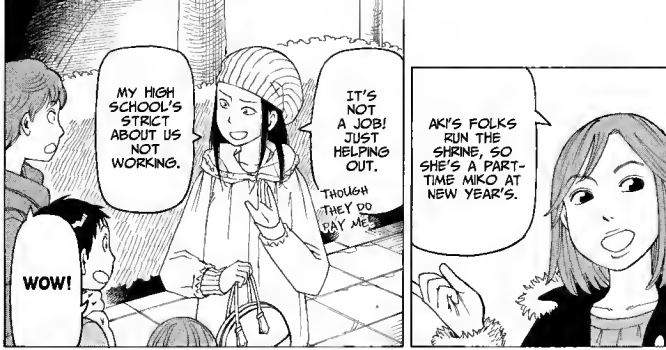
UH, SO I MEANT TO HAVE THE CLASS PRESIDENT DO THE FIRST TOAST...
...BUT WE COULDN'T GET AHOLD OF HIM, SO HE'S NOT HERE.
SO IT FALLS TO ME, MICHIBATA.
RAISE YOUR CUPS!
LOTS OF PEOPLE HERE.
WELL, IT WAS A TIGHT-KNIT CLASS.
...HUH?!
HUH?
HUH?!
WELL... WE DIDN'T DISLIKE EACH OTHER.
BUT IT WAS VERY CLIQUEY.
IT WAS?!
HASHIMOTO'S GROUP REALLY HATED EVERYONE AROUND MATSUNO.
AND ISHIHARA, TOO...

I GUESS I SAW A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD THAN YOU.
I DUNNO.
HA HA HA HA!


MAID?!
ISN'T IT WEIRD THAT OUR GROUP HAS BOTH A MAID AND A MIKO?
SAY...

IT'S A NORMAL CAFE, JUST INSIDE THE MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT.
I BET TAMO-CHAN'S IMAGINING SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
THAT'S SO OUT OF CHARAC-TER!
HOTORI'S WORKING AT A MAID CAFE.

BUT I LOST MY NERVE.
I ALMOST WENT IN ONCE!
I KNOW THAT PLACE!!
OH!!
THEY SAY THERE'S A REALLY WEIRD MAID THERE!
YEAH.
SO I GET THE MAID, BUT... MIKO?
IF SOMETHING'S WEIRD, IT'S DEFINITELY ARASHIYAMA.
HEY!
SURE THAT WEIRD MAID ISN'T YOU, HOTORI?

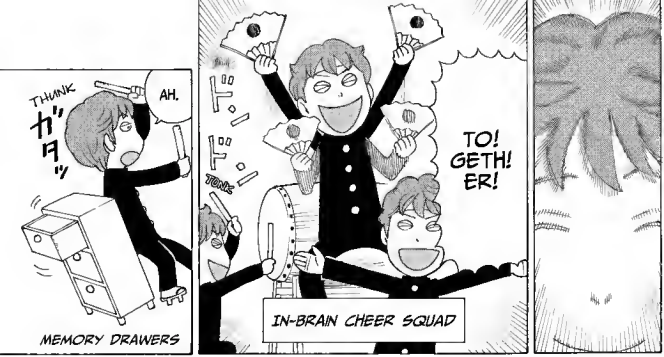

WOW!
MY HIGH SCHOOL'S STRICT ABOUT US NOT WORKING.
IT'S NOT A JOB! JUST HELPING OUT.
THOUGH THEY DO PAY ME.
AKI'S FOLKS RUN THE SHRINE, SO SHE'S A PART-TIME MIKO AT NEW YEAR'S.

FINALLY!
OH!
AKI YASHI-RO!
YOUR NAME'S THE SAME.
YA-SHIRO-SAN?
THE SHRINE NEAR US?
"WOW"?
THE SHRINE'S RIGHT NEAR YOUR PLACE.

IT JUST CLICKED INTO PLACE.
YEAH... GUESS WE WERE SEEING A DIFFERENT WORLD.
YOU NEVER NOTICED?!
QUITE THE TIME LAG.

YOU'RE A MIKO AND A TIME TRAVELER?
...WE MADE A TIME MACHINE, RIGHT?
SPEAK-ING OF TIME...
HUH? THE WHAT?
THE TIME CAPSULE!
SLAP
バシ
ARGH, YOU MORON!
THAT NEVER HAPPENED.
WE WERE GONNA OPEN IT WHEN WE WERE FORTY. WROTE NOTES TO OUR FUTURE SELVES.
WAIT... MAYBE WE DID?

THE WHOLE IDEA WAS THAT WE ALL TAKE PART.
WELL, MY WHOLE THIRD YEAR WAS FLAWLESS.
UH... YOU MEAN YOU HAD PERFECT ATTEN-DANCE?
I DON'T REMEM-BER IT, EITHER.
WERE YOU OUT THAT DAY?
YOU WERE LATE A LOT.
RIGHT, RIGHT! SENSEI USED TO TELL HER "WATCH THE TIME!" PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY.
YOU WERE ON TIME TODAY!
NICE.
BECAUSE I CAME WITH SANADA.
OHHH? YOU CAME TOGETH-ER?
LIKE, TOGETHER TOGETHER?
NO!
KNOCK IT OFF.


THUNK
ガタッ
AH.
MEMORY DRAWERS
ドドドドド
TONK
TO! GETH! ER!
IN-BRAIN CHEER SQUAD

ONLY FOUR OR FIVE OF US LEFT, AND HE CAME IN...
THAT'S RIGHT! IN CLASS AFTER SCHOOL.

TAMO-CHAN GAVE ME THAT PAPER.
I RE-MEMBER NOW!!

HUH? NOW?!
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT, JUST WRITE SOMETHING.

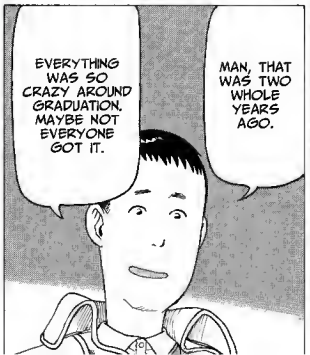
WE'RE MAKING A TIME CAPSULE FOR GRADUATION, TO BE OPENED WHEN WE'RE FORTY.
...ACTING LIKE SOMEONE TOLD HIM TO.

DID WE LEAVE YOU OUT?
I STILL DON'T REMEMBER THIS AT ALL.

SOME ESSAY PAPER FROM THE SCHOOL SHOP AND AN ENVELOPE.
STICKY SAUCE
Hiroyuki Sawada

I REMEMBER NOW!
IT'S WEIRD ONLY THE TWO US REMEMBER. I'M GONNA ASK MICHIBATA.

LINDA, MAYBE, BUT WE'D NEVER HAVE LEFT HOTORI OUT.
YOUVE LEFT ME OUT?! HOW OFTEN?!


EVERYTHING WAS SO CRAZY AROUND GRADUATION. MAYBE NOT EVERYONE GOT IT.
MAN, THAT WAS TWO WHOLE YEARS AGO.

SEE!
THE CLASS PRESIDENT ASKED ME.

I BET IF WE OPENED IT, HOTORI AND LINDA WOULD BE IN THERE, TOO.
MAYBE.
WELL, SEE YA!

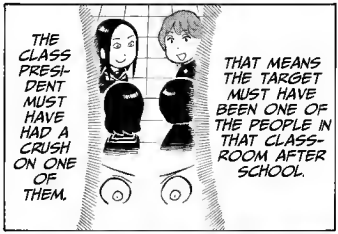
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

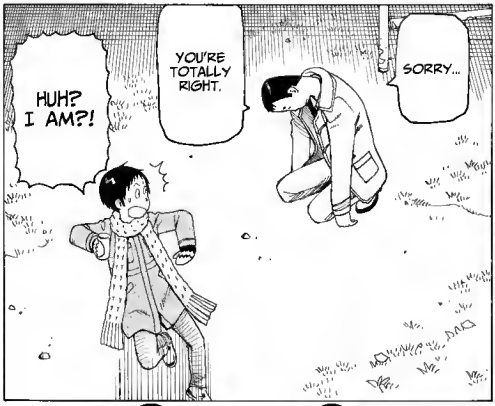
DO I LOOK LIKE THE TYPE TO LET A HUNCH LIE FALLOW THAT LONG?

DOING A TIME CAPSULE FOR GRADUATION WOULD BE A BIG DEAL.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T REMEMBER.
WELL... WHEN WE'RE FORTY...

YEAH.
THANKS FOR COMING WITH. YOU OKAY ON TIME?
I'M NOT LEAVING TILL IT MAKES SENSE.
THOSE WHO REMEMBER THE TIME CAPSULE EVEN KNOW THE KIND OF PAPER THEY USED.
BUT THOSE WHO DON'T REMEMBER CAN RECALL ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
?
WITHOUT SOME SORT OF AMNESIA, SUCH A SITUATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE MUST BE A TRICK!

BUT THEN AKI WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO BRING IT UP. THOSE INVOLVED WOULD BE SWORN TO SECRECY.
...WAS CARRIED OUT IN SECRET....
IF ONLY A SELECT FEW WERE CHOSEN FOR THE CAPSULE, AND THE PLAN...
IN OTHER WORDS...
...THE CASE OF THE TIME CAPSULE...
...SUGGESTS IT WAS IMPULSIVE, THOUGHT UP ON THE SPOT.
THE USE OF ESSAY PAPER FROM THE SCHOOL SHOP...
...FROM SOMEONE THE PERP HAD A CRUSH ON! WELL?!
...WAS A PHONEY EVENT DESIGNED PURELY TO GET A HAND-WRITTEN NOTE...


THE CLASS PRESIDENT MUST HAVE HAD A CRUSH ON ONE OF THEM.
THAT MEANS THE TARGET MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT CLASSROOM AFTER SCHOOL.



B

SCOLD HIM, "YOU DIDN'T DO THE CLASS PRESIDENT ANY FAVORS!"

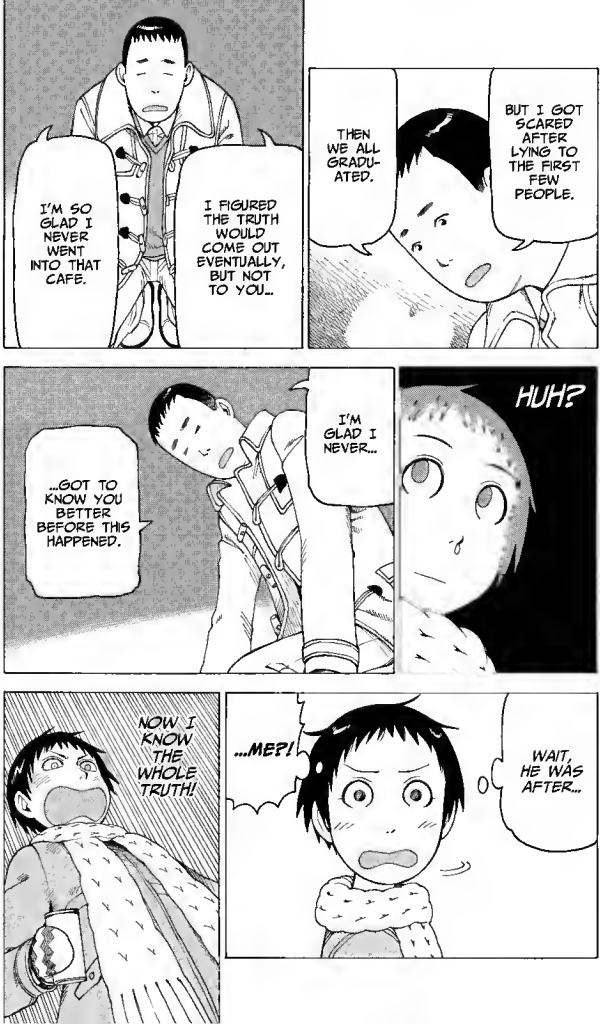
TURN TO PANEL ONE OF THE NEXT PAGE.

A

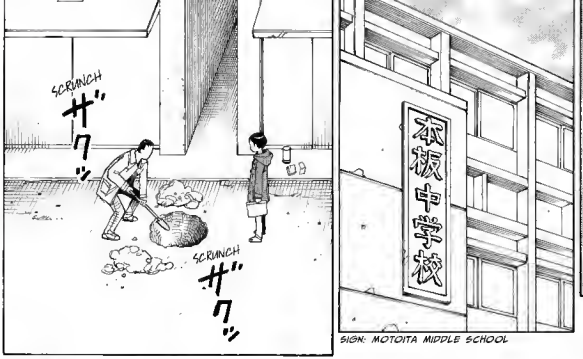
SAY SOOTHINGLY, "YOU WERE JUST USED BY THE CLASS PRESIDENT."

TURN TO PANEL ONE OF THE NEXT PAGE.

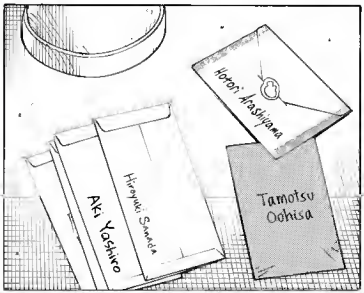
HE'S THE PERP?!
WAIT...
YOU...
I'M SORRY.
I DID IT ON IMPULSE.
OHHH, HE BLAMED THE CLASS PRESIDENT BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
CRAP. WHAT NOW?!
"YOU'RE THE MASTER-MIND!"
WE ALREADY KNOW THAT.
"WE AREN'T MACHINES!"
WRONG GENRE.
I THOUGHT IF I GOT YASHIRO'S CREW ON BOARD...
...IT'D SPREAD THROUGH THE CLASS, AND WE'D REALLY MAKE A TIME CAPSULE.
AND THEN...
...I'D GET THE ONE I WAS AFTER.
IN THE FUTURE, WE'D DIG FOR IT...
...AND NOT BE ABLE TO FIND IT.
YOU THOUGHT FARTHER AHEAD THAN I EXPECTED.

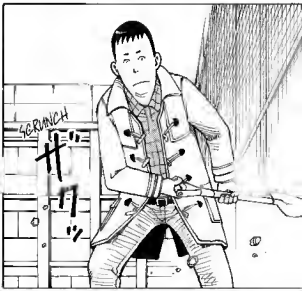

I'M SO GLAD I NEVER WENT INTO THAT CAFE.
I FIGURED THE TRUTH WOULD COME OUT EVENTUALLY, BUT NOT TO YOU...
THEN WE ALL GRADUATED.
BUT I GOT SCARED AFTER LYING TO THE FIRST FEW PEOPLE.
...GOT TO KNOW YOU BETTER BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.
I'M GLAD I NEVER...
HUH?
NOW I KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH!
...ME?!
WAIT, HE WAS AFTER...

THIS GUY...
...WANTED MY HAND-WRITING SO BADLY...
...THAT HE MADE UP A FAKE TIME CAPSULE.
IT'S STRANGE...
I CORRECTLY DEDUCED THE TRUTH...
...BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL SO GOOD.



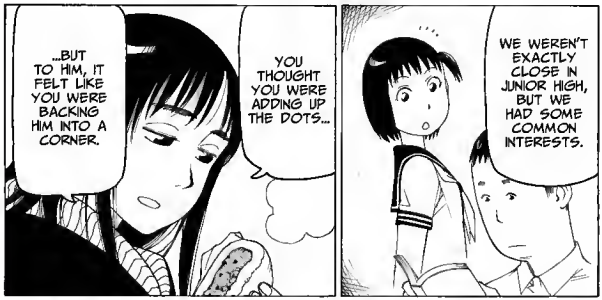
SIGN: MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL





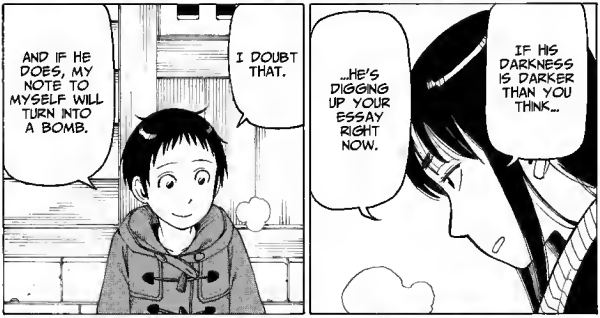
FOOMP
どさっ
THE TIME CAPSULE IS REAL, AFTER ALL.
WE'LL DIG IT UP WHEN WE'RE FORTY.
ドン TAP
ドン TAP
ドン TAP
THANK YOU.
ARASHI-YAMA.

JUST THOUGHT I'D PLAY DETECTIVE WITH OOHISA-KUN.
...KINDA CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
THE WHOLE MEMORY THING...

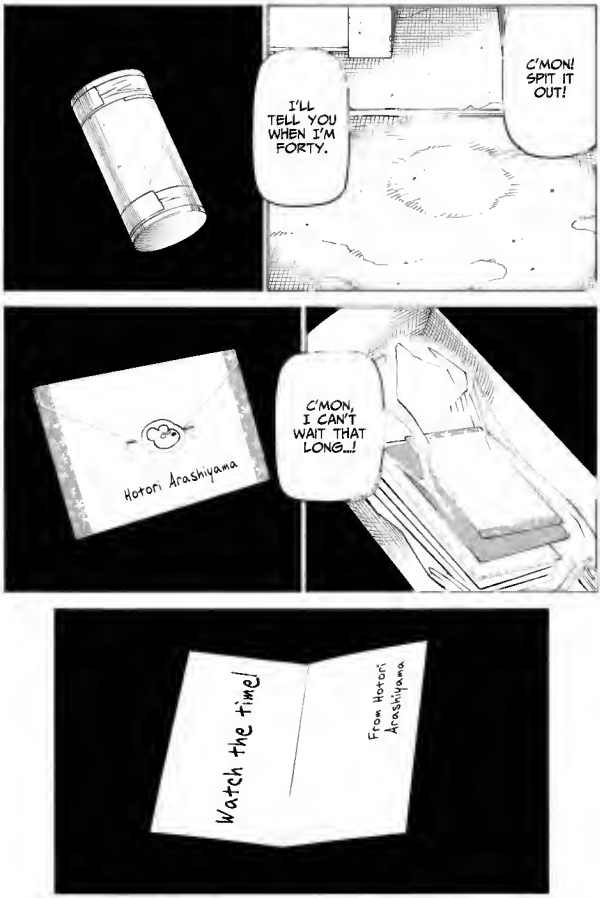

...BUT TO HIM, IT FELT LIKE YOU WERE BACKING HIM INTO A CORNER.
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE ADDING UP THE DOTS...
WE WEREN'T EXACTLY CLOSE IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT WE HAD SOME COMMON INTERESTS.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.
TOO NICE FOR SUCH ROMANTIC GESTURES.
BUT I THINK HE SECRETLY WANTED TO CONFESS.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO REALIZE THAT YOUR BEING EASY TO LIKE MAKES PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE SOMETIMES.
I MEAN YOU.

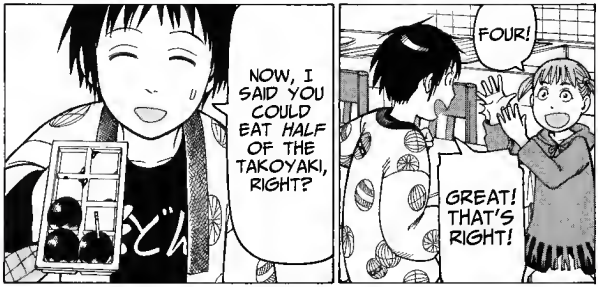

AND IF HE DOES, MY NOTE TO MYSELF WILL TURN INTO A BOMB.
I DOUBT THAT.
...HE'S DIGGING UP YOUR ESSAY RIGHT NOW.
IF HIS DARKNESS IS DARKER THAN YOU THINK...

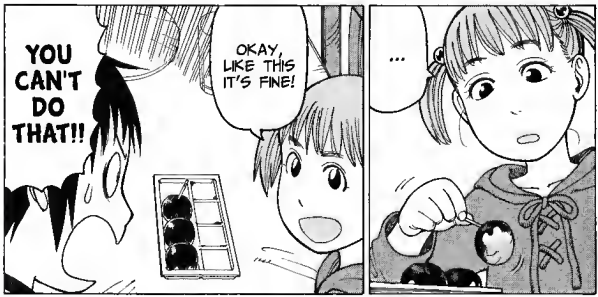
NO, IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL. JUST IN HINDSIGHT...
YOU WROTE SOMETHING CLEVER?
OH?


I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'M FORTY.
C'MON! SPIT IT OUT!
Hotori Arashiyama
C'MON, I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG...!
Watch the time!
From Hotori Arashiyama

CHAPTER 128 / END

SHIRT: UDON / BOX: DOG FOOD

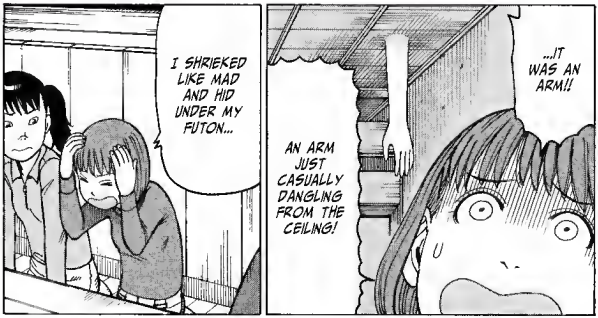




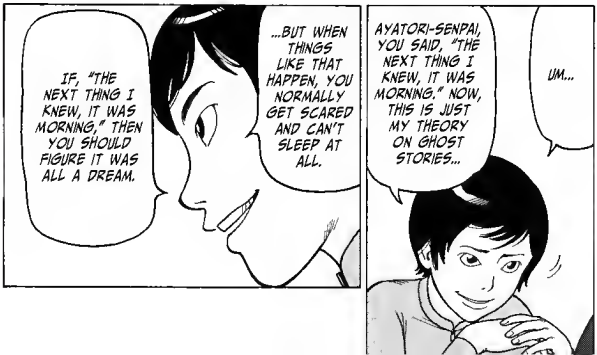
CHAPTER 93
HOTORI SOLVES A MYSTERY AT A KOTATSU

BOTTLE: HEY! TEA

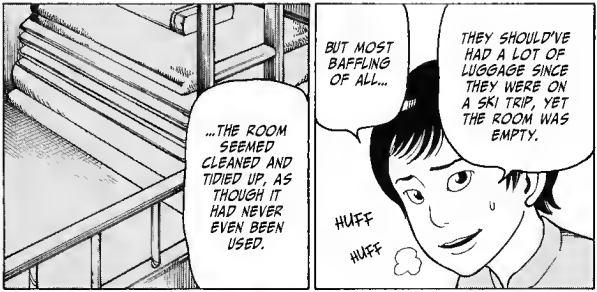
THIS STORY'S FROM WHEN I DID A TRAINING CAMP WITH THE CONCERT BAND...
WE DIDN'T REALLY USE IT FOR PRACTICE. WE JUST WENT TO SKI AND THEN RETURNED THE NEXT DAY.
...
.....
...
JUST AS I WAS WONDERING WHAT THE WHITE THING REALLY WAS...
...I TOOK A GOOD LOOK, AND...

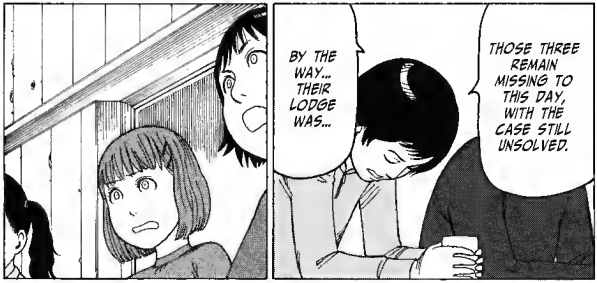

I SHRIEKED LIKE MAD AND HID UNDER MY FUTON...
AN ARM JUST CASUALLY DANGLING FROM THE CEILING!
...IT WAS AN ARM!!

GEEZ! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP IN A TATAMI-MAT ROOM SINCE THEN!
...AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, IT WAS MORNING.


IF, "THE NEXT THING I KNEW, IT WAS MORNING," THEN YOU SHOULD FIGURE IT WAS ALL A DREAM.
...BUT WHEN THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPEN, YOU NORMALLY GET SCARED AND CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL.
AYATORI-SENPAI, YOU SAID, "THE NEXT THING I KNEW, IT WAS MORNING." NOW, THIS IS JUST MY THEORY ON GHOST STORIES...
UM...

FINE. I'LL TELL A SCARY STORY NEXT.
HEH HEH HEH. SETTLE DOWN...
SHE COULD'VE FAINTED, YOU KNOW!
YEAH!
GAH! THIS GUY REALLY TICKS ME OFF!
AN INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN F PREFECTURE IN 19XX.
IT HAPPENED HERE, AT THE DEER LAKE SKI RESORT.
OH! THE SPIRITING-AWAY INCIDENT?
YES! YOU'RE WELL-INFORMED, MU-CHAN.
THERE WAS A GROUP OF SIX SKIERS STAYING IN TWO ROOMS AT ONE LODGE.
THE THREE PEOPLE WHO WERE STAYING IN ONE OF THE ROOMS VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
IT WASN'T UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING THAT THEIR FRIENDS NOTICED AND REPORTED THEM MISSING.

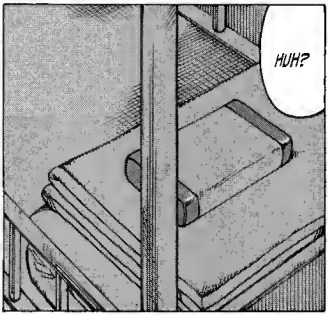

...THE ROOM SEEMED CLEANED AND TIDIED UP, AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER EVEN BEEN USED.
BUT MOST BAFFLING OF ALL...
THEY SHOULD'VE HAD A LOT OF LUGGAGE SINCE THEY WERE ON A SKI TRIP, YET THE ROOM WAS EMPTY.
HUFF
HUFF

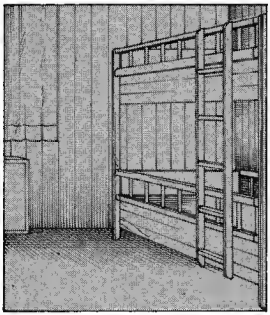

BY THE WAY... THEIR LODGE WAS...
THOSE THREE REMAIN MISSING TO THIS DAY, WITH THE CASE STILL UNSOLVED.

HEY! GET TO BED, YOU GUYS!
ビク
JOLT
SEN-SEI!
OUR BUS LEAVES EARLY TO-MORROW.
EEEK!
...WE ARE AT.
...HAR-MONY COT-TAGE...
THE SAME...

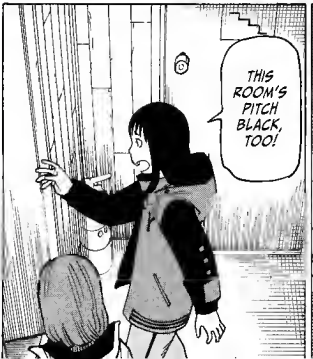
THE GIRLS' ROOM IS UPSTAIRS, AND THE BOYS' ROOM IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
EACH FLOOR HAS ITS OWN BATH!
MAKE SURE NOT TO GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT!
RRR
YOP-PY!
THE OTHER GIRLS WENT TO HANG OUT IN THE BOYS' ROOM. WANNA JOIN THEM?
YEAH! LET'S GO!

SIGN: HOLLY ROOM

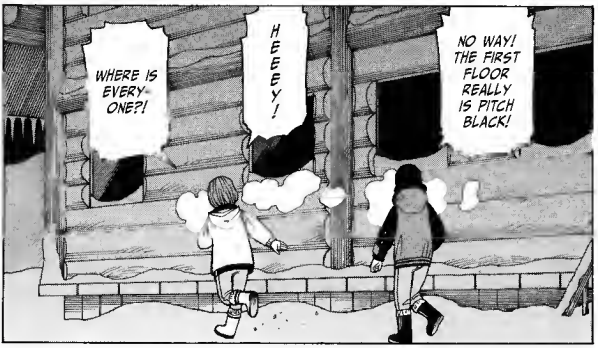


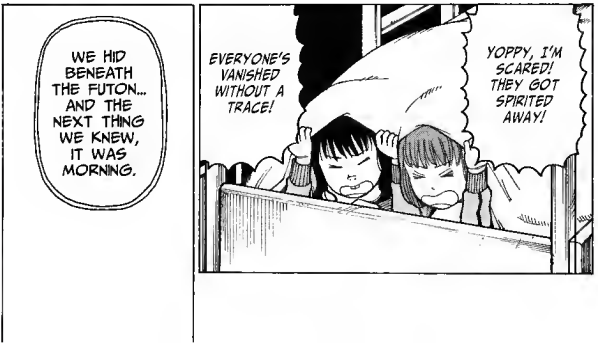


SIGN: BATHS ARE ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FLOORS.

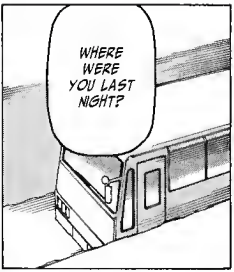


LET'S CHECK FROM OUTSIDE!
BUT WHY?! AREN'T THESE THE ONLY ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR?!


WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?!
HEEEY!
NO WAY! THE FIRST FLOOR REALLY IS PITCH BLACK!


WE HID BENEATH THE FUTON... AND THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, IT WAS MORNING.
EVERYONE'S VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!
YOPPY, I'M SCARED! THEY GOT SPIRITED AWAY!

WHAT TIME WAS THIS?
WE WERE IN OUR ROOM THE WHOLE TIME.


WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT?

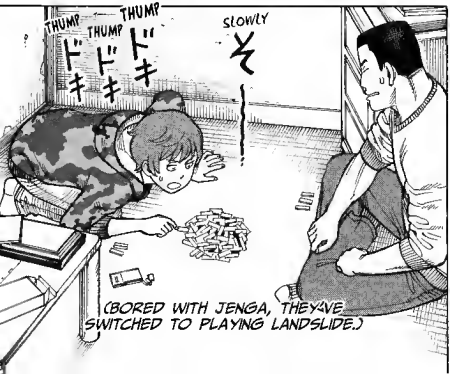
IF THAT WAS TRUE... THEN WHAT WERE THOSE EMPTY, TIDY ROOMS WE FOUND THE PREVIOUS NIGHT?

AT THAT TIME, WE WERE IN THE ROOM, STILL AWAKE. ALL OF US.
IT WAS AFTER WE'D EACH HAD OUR TURN IN THE BATH, SO AROUND 11 O'CLOCK.

WOOOOW!

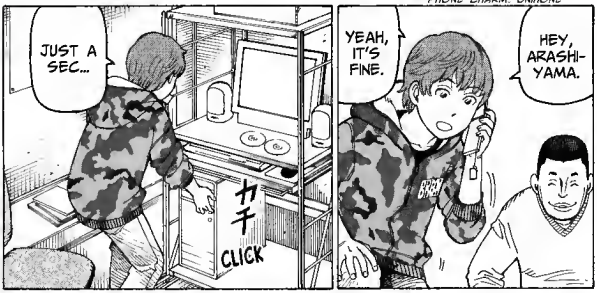
MAYBE IF WE'D STEPPED INSIDE ONE OF THOSE PITCH-BLACK ROOMS, WE'D HAVE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE, TOO...

SIGN: SANADA'S FRESH FISH

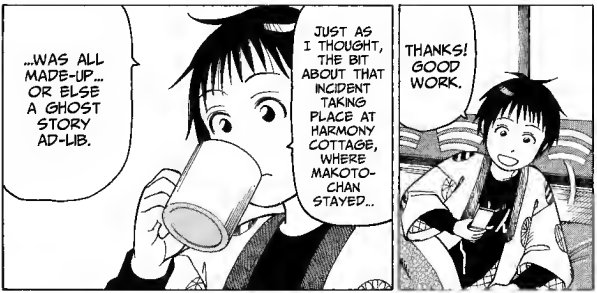


(BORED WITH JENGA, THEY'VE SWITCHED TO PLAYING LANDSLIDE.)

YAY! A DIVINE WIND BLEW IN!
ACK!
JOLT
ビク
CLATTER
ガラ
ガラ
CLATTER
ヴヴヴ
RRR
PHONE CHARM: ONIHONE


JUST A SEC...
カチ
CLICK
YEAH, IT'S FINE.
HEY, ARASHI-YAMA.

SERENITY COTTAGE? ARE YOU SURE?
IS THE NAME OF THE LODGE WHERE IT TOOK PLACE MENTIONED ANY-WHERE?
YEAH! THREE PEOPLE VANISHED, THAT'S THE ONE!
...A SPIRITING-AWAY INCIDENT AT THE F PREFEC-TURE DEER LAKE SKI RESORT.
SO, I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK INTO...


...WAS ALL MADE-UP... OR ELSE A GHOST STORY AD-LIB.
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE BIT ABOUT THAT INCIDENT TAKING PLACE AT HARMONY COTTAGE, WHERE MAKOTO-CHAN STAYED...
THANKS! GOOD WORK.

HMMM...
ASSUMING THAT, THEN THE LIKELI-HOOD THAT MAKOTO-CHAN WITNESSED A TRUE SPIRITUAL OR SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON GETS WEAKER AND WEAKER.

PIECE OF CAKE.
HEY, I'VE SOLVED THE MYS-TERY.
...OH!
うどん

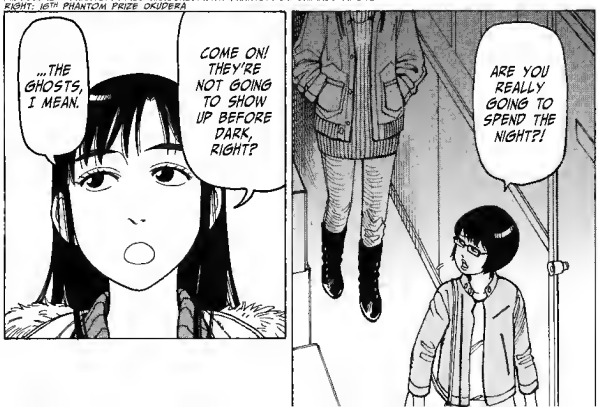
SIGN: LITERATURE DIVISION

BUILDING: HOUGA PUBLISHING

LEFT POSTER: 13TH PHANTOM PRIZE RECIPIENT MONISHI KAZUYA: SEA URCHIN AIRSHIP

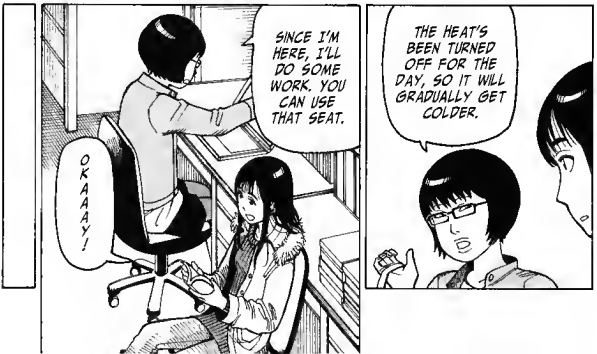
MIDDLE: 18TH PHANTOM PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT: PHANTOM BY SHIMABE HIROTO

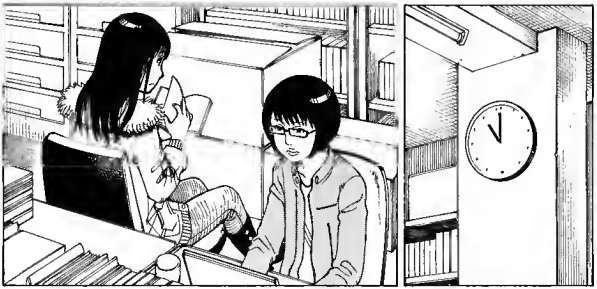
RIGHT: 16TH PHANTOM PRIZE OKUDERA

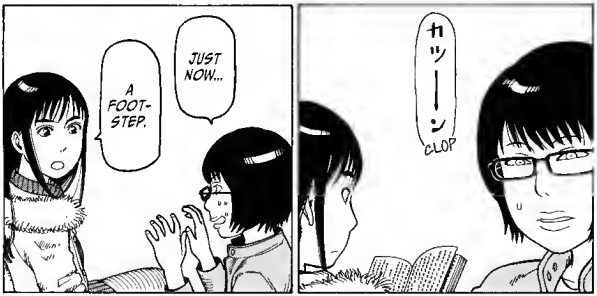


THERE'S NO CONSISTENCY THERE...
NOT ONLY THAT, THERE ARE A LOT OF WITNESSES FOR THINGS HERE LIKE BALLS OF LIGHT, A HEADLESS SALESMAN, AN ARMORED WARRIOR, ETC., ETC.
I'VE HEARD STRANGE FOOTSTEPS MYSELF!
YOU'RE MAKING LIGHT OF THIS, BUT... THEY REALLY EXIST!
OH, YOU CAN HAVE THIS POCKET HAND WARMER IF YOU LIKE.
WELL, I HAVE TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF.
AND SO, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERTIME HAVE RAPIDLY DECREASED.

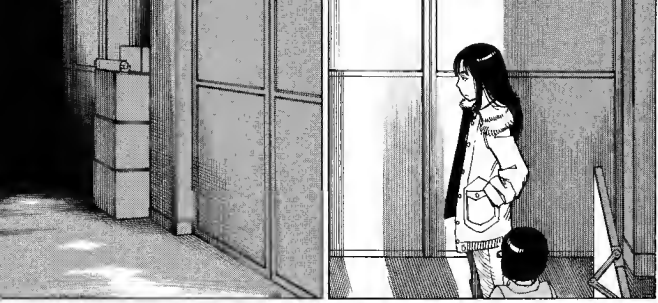
PACKAGE: POCKET WARMER

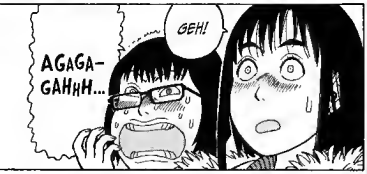

SINCE I'M HERE, I'LL DO SOME WORK. YOU CAN USE THAT SEAT.
OKAAAY!
THE HEAT'S BEEN TURNED OFF FOR THE DAY, SO IT WILL GRADUALLY GET COLDER.



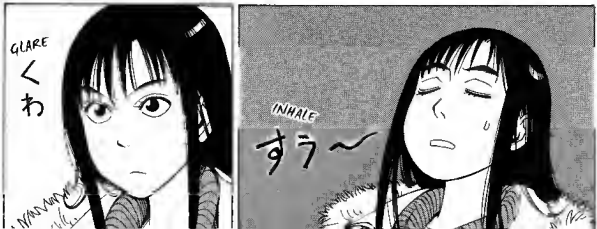

JUST NOW...
A FOOT-STEP.
カツーン
CLOP

KUROSAKI-SAN, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK.
HUH? WHAA?!
I HAVE TO GO, TOO?!
IT FEELS TOO EARLY FOR A GHOST TO SHOW UP.
THAT COULD BE ANOTHER LATE-STAYING EMPLOYEE ON ONE OF THE OTHER FLOORS, OR A SECURITY GUARD.




AGAGA-
GAHHH...
GEH!

PRAY
PRAY
ヘナ
ヘナ
NANMYOU HOU
REN SOU,
NOUMAKUEN,
SAARADABAA,
NISHINIPPORI...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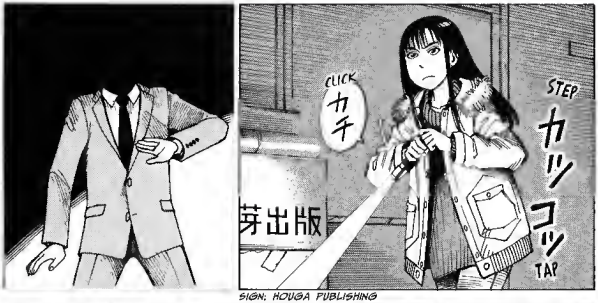
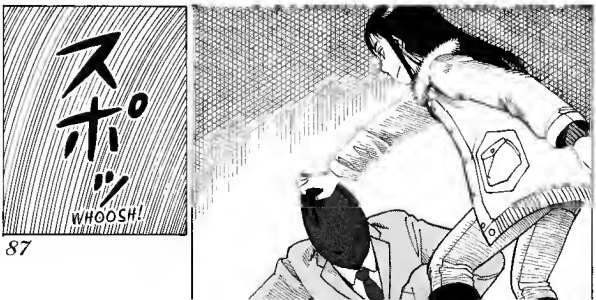
INHALE
すう〜



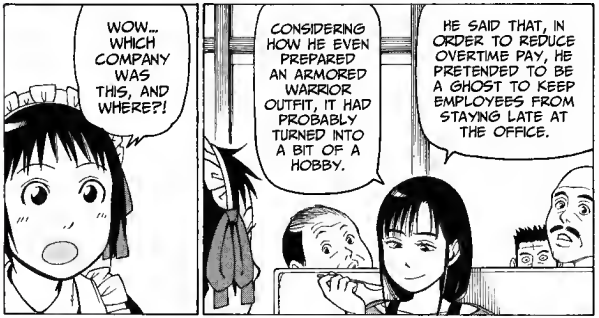
SIGN: HOUGA PUBLISHING

HEEEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ドサ
WHUMP
URG!

GRIN
ニヤリ
OW OW OW OW OW!


スポッ
WHOOSH!

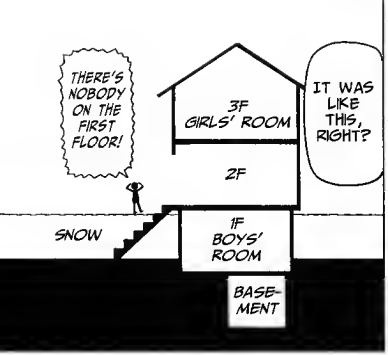
THE CULPRIT WAS THE COMPANY PRESI-DENT.

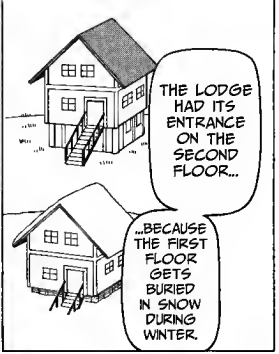

WOW... WHICH COMPANY WAS THIS, AND WHERE?!
CONSIDERING HOW HE EVEN PREPARED AN ARMORED WARRIOR OUTFIT, IT HAD PROBABLY TURNED INTO A BIT OF A HOBBY.
HE SAID THAT, IN ORDER TO REDUCE OVERTIME PAY, HE PRETENDED TO BE A GHOST TO KEEP EMPLOYEES FROM STAYING LATE AT THE OFFICE.

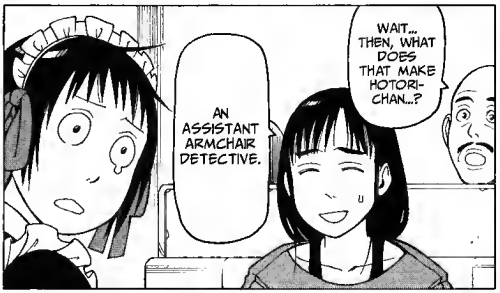
...OF THE CASE I RE-CENTLY SOLVED!
THEN, LISTEN TO MY STORY...
OKAY...
NOW, NOW, IT'S ALREADY BEEN SOLVED, SO DON'T WORRY OVER SMALL DETAILS.

SHIZUKA-NEECHAN, YOU MAY BE THE "POLICE DETECTIVE TYPE" THAT GOES TO THE SCENE AND SOLVES CASES ON FOOT...
...BUT I'M MORE OF AN "ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE" TYPE.
WHAT'S AN "ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE"?
PUT SIMPLY, IT MEANS ONE WHO REASONS OUT A CASE...
...WITH JUST DATA AND INFORMATION, ALL WHILE REMAINING SEATED AND NOT LEAVING THE ROOM.
OH... SO THEY'RE LIKE SOMEONE AT A KOTATSU WITH STUFF PILED AROUND THEM.
HOTORI-CHAN, LAZINESS WILL MAKE YOU FAT!
NO COMMENTS FROM THE PEANUT GALLERY!
AHEM.
THE CASE STARTED WITH A SINGLE PHONE CALL...

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
LISTEN AS I DESCRIBE HOW I SPLENDIDLY SOLVED THE CASE!
...AND SO, JUST WHAT WAS THAT STRANGE WORLD THAT MY COUSIN MAKOTO-CHAN NEARLY GOT LOST IN?!
G-GEH!
THE "FIRST FLOOR" WAS REALLY THE SECOND FLOOR, RIGHT?
WHAT?! YOU DID?!
SORRY, I FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY.
WHAT DID YOU FIGURE OUT?
IT'S A SNOWY MOUNTAIN TRICK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH? THAT WAS THE ANSWER?

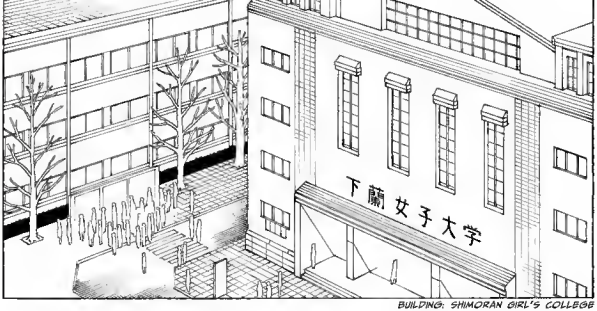




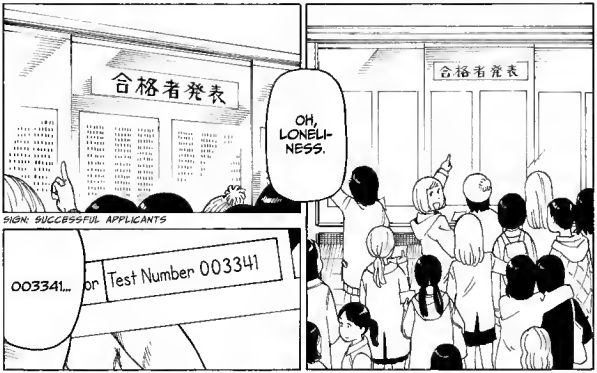


CHAPTER 93 / END

HARIBARA-SAN'S FAVORITE FOODS
MACARONS
FRUIT TEA
BLT SANDWICHES
WING TIPS
QUICHE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "A SHAME"?!
YEAH, WHAT A SHAME!
THE WING TIPS DON'T BELONG, DO THEY?



BUILDING: SHIMORAN GIRL'S COLLEGE



SIGN: SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

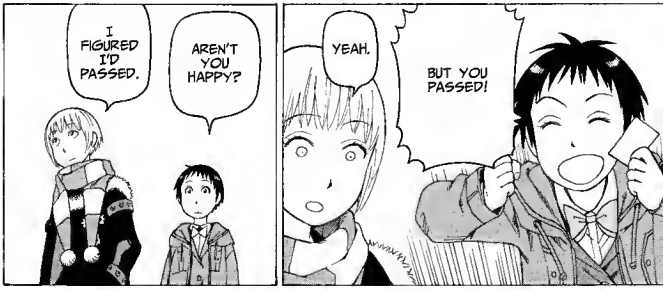
SQUEE!!
YAY!

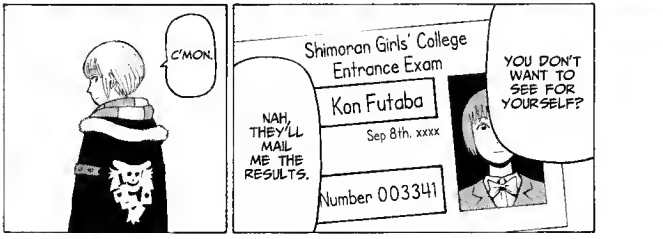
HURRAY!

HUR-
RAY!

HUR-
RAY!

HA HA HA... SOME TOTAL STRANGERS WERE THROWING ME AROUND.
YOU'RE LATE.


I FIGURED I'D PASSED.
AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
YEAH.
BUT YOU PASSED!


C'MON.
Shimoran Girls' College Entrance Exam
Kon Futaba
Sep 8th. xxxx
Number 003341
NAH, THEY'LL MAIL ME THE RESULTS.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE FOR YOURSELF?

YOU REALLY AREN'T FEELING THIS, HUH?
SO IT IS.
SHIMORAN'S AN EASY TRAIN RIDE AWAY FROM YOUR PLACE!
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK

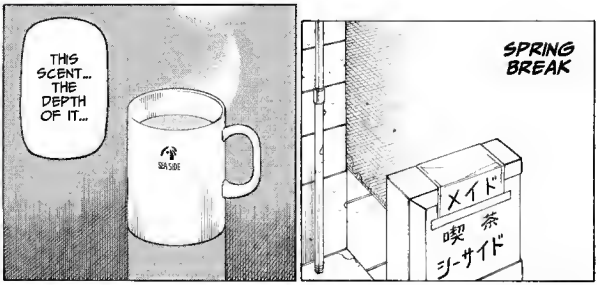
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT GOOD COLLEGE IS.

IT SUCKED, FAILING TO GET INTO THE SCHOOL I WANTED MOST, BUT...
WELL, I DON'T HAVE TO STUDY FOR EXAMS ANYMORE.

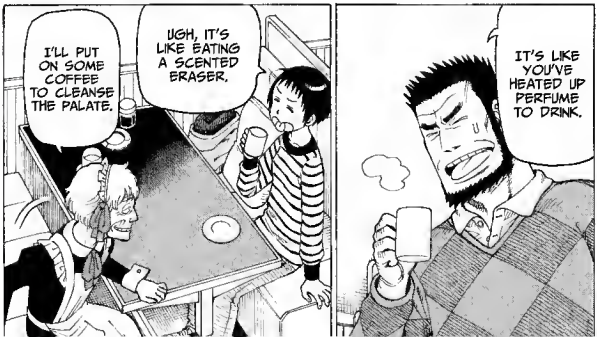
NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
BUT NOW I'LL BE STARTING OVER. NEW PLACE, NEW PEOPLE.

DUMBO!

I'LL TRY FOR SHIMORAN NEXT YEAR TOO, SO SCOUT IT OUT FOR ME!
YOU'LL FIND OUT ONCE YOU GET THERE, I'M SURE!



SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE


I'LL PUT ON SOME COFFEE TO CLEANSE THE PALATE.
UGH, IT'S LIKE EATING A SCENTED ERASER.
IT'S LIKE YOU'VE HEATED UP PERFUME TO DRINK.

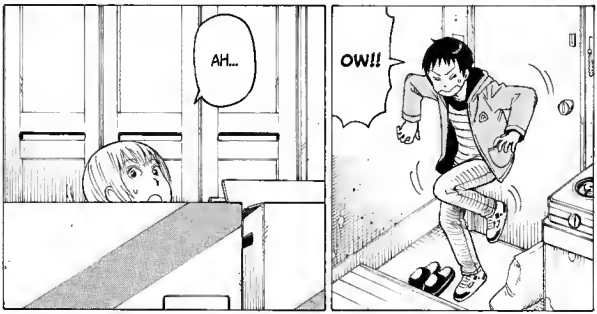
?!
JASMINE TEA, RIGHT?
RIGHT? AT LEAST YOU GET IT, ARAI-SAN!
PERHAPS IT'S TOO MUCH FOR PLEBIANS TO HANDLE.
DON'T YOU GET IT?
THIS RICH FRAG-RANCE.
荒井クリーニング
COAT: IT TAKES TWO TO FIGHT
APRON: ARAI DRY CLEANING
BABRRRROM
VRROOM
VRROOM
VRROOM
BABABABA
喧嘩両成敗
※ARAI MASUYO IN HIGH SCHOOL
THAT'S A CONNOIS-SEUR?
MY WIFE IS QUITE THE TEA CONNOISSEUR.
荒井クリー

I DEFINITELY LIKE COFFEE BETTER.
IS THIS A COMMERCIAL? YOU A COFFEE SPY?
I'M ON MY WAY TO SHARE WITH KON-SENPAI. ONCE I FINISH THIS...
MY MOM'S FOLKS SENT IT.
AH! I FORGOT!
WHAT'S WITH THE RICE?
北陸産 コシカガヤ
BAG: HOKURIKU GROWN, KOSHIKAGAYA
?
SHE STILL LIVES IN THAT APARTMENT?
HUH?

PSHT
?!
I HEARD SHE WAS MOVING IN WITH HER PARENTS THIS SPRING.
SHE'S GOING TO ENGLAND?!
SHE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH! WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE?!
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS!
ARRGHHHH!
I'VE GOT A FREE CLEANING TICKET!
HUH? HOW DO YOU HAVE SO MANY?!
HUH? BUT I'M ON A BREAK!
ARAI-SAN, GET THE STAIN OUT!
HARIBARA-SAN ONLY MENTIONED IT ONCE!

SIGN: KAWAISOU

THUD
5kg


AH...
OW!!

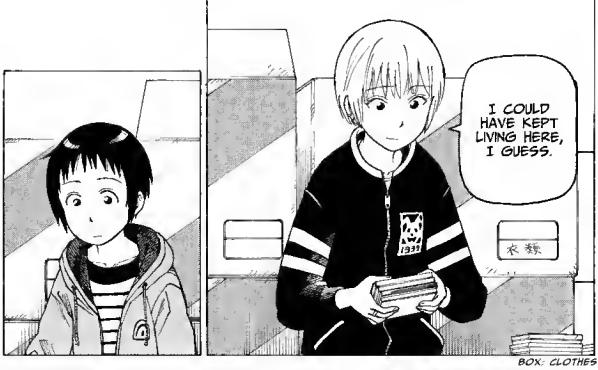
I WAS GONNA SWING AROUND AND SAY SOMETHING LATER.
HARIBARA TOLD YOU? TATSUNO?
R...
YOU'RE MOV-ING?
REAL-LY?

JUST...
...NEVER QUITE FOUND THE MOMENT.
1935
.....
.....

SURE, BUT SERIOUSLY, IT'S TRASH.
CAN I LOOK?
...YOU DON'T WANT?
THIS HEAP OVER HERE IS STUFF...
GAR-BAGE.

I'M NOT TRYING TO TAKE IT.
JUST... HELP SORT IT.
OKAY.

...
...
HOTORI! A COCK-ROACH!
CATCH
THAT IS ONE GROSS PAPERCLIP.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN YELP!
YOU'D NEVER THROW A REAL ONE BARE-HANDED.
YOU NEED THIS OR NOT?
TAKE IT.
DON'T WANT IT.

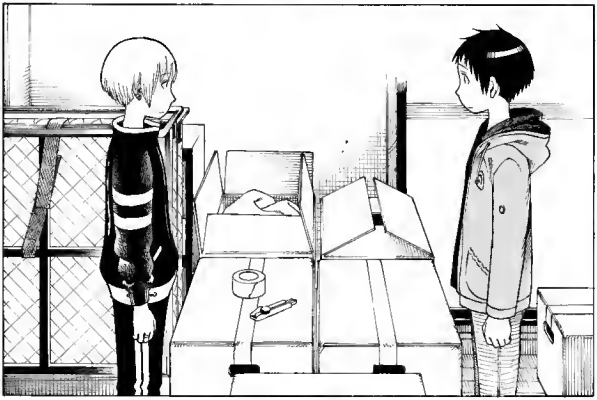

I COULD HAVE KEPT LIVING HERE, I GUESS.
衣類

BOX: CLOTHES

JUST NOT AS OFTEN.
I'LL STILL COME AROUND.
BUT IT WAS ALL ARRANGED.

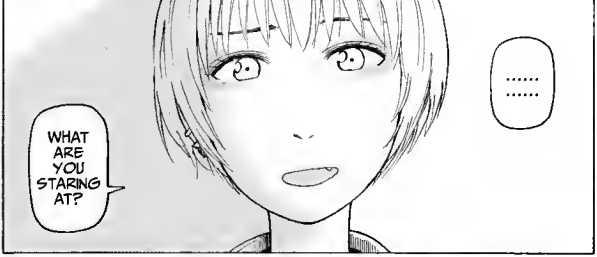
KON-SEMPAI MUST HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THIS CHOICE! SEND HER OFF WITH A SMILE!!
DON'T! STRAIN YOUR EYES!! STOP THE TEARS!!

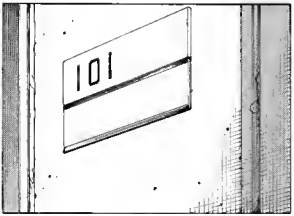
YOU KNOW...
BECAUSE OF YOU...
..I REALLY ENJOYED HIGH SCHOOL.
THANKS.
PSSSSHT
SURE!
HIC
HIC
HIC
HIC
HAHHHHHH

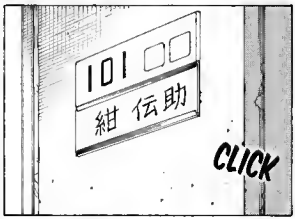


YOUR EYES ARE RED.

YOURS ARE, TOO.







SIGN: KON DENSUKE

JABBER JABBER
JABBER JABBER
STAND.
BOW.
2-A

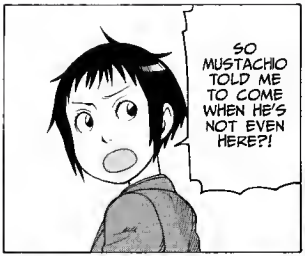
ARASHI-YAMA.

ARASHIYAMA-SAN FROM CLASS 2-A. ARASHIYAMA-SAN FROM CLASS 2-A.
DING DONG DING
WHAT'S UP?

UM... WHO TAKES PRIORITY IN THIS SITUATION? HOMEROOM TEACHER OR TEACHER'S OFFICE?
GO RIGHT ON AHEAD.
GO SEE MR. MIYAZAKI IN THE ART ROOM.

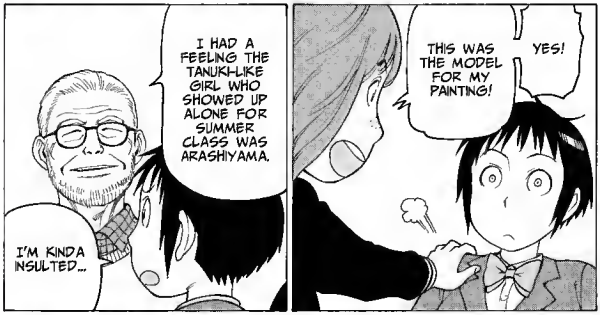
美術室
SIGNS: ART ROOM, MIYAZAKI
COMING IN.
DID I TURN IN A PIECE OF ART THAT CAUGHT HIS EYE?
MR. MIYAZAKI NEVER CALLS STUDENTS TO HIS OFFICE.

HUH?



SIGN: SUPPLY ROOM

UM... UM...
AH! IT'S HER!!
AH, MY STOMACH HURTS NOW...


I'M KINDA INSULTED...
I HAD A FEELING THE TANUKI-LIKE GIRL WHO SHOWED UP ALONE FOR SUMMER CLASS WAS ARASHIYAMA.
THIS WAS THE MODEL FOR MY PAINTING!
YES!

I WAS WORRIED THAT I HAD IMAGINED EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU.
※REFER TO VOLUME 12'S "GHOST ART"

MORE LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
IT WASN'T MY IDEA, THOUGH.

YOU CUT YOUR HAIR.

WOW, YOU REALLY DID IT! NO HESITATION AT ALL!
OKAY, RYOU-CHIN.

NO NEED FOR THAT! CALL ME RYOU-CHIN.
ANYWAY, MUROFUSHI-SAN...

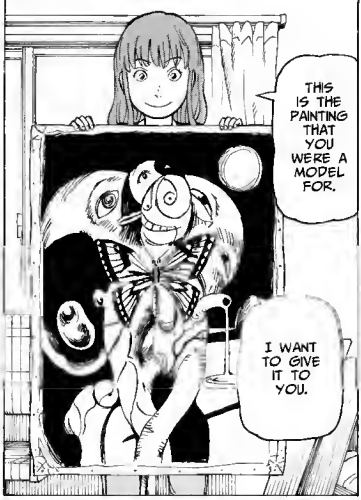
I'LL TELL YOU THAT AND MORE, SO LET'S HEAD OVER TO YOUR HOUSE.
SO WHY DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME SIX MONTHS LATER?

HUH? IS IT OKAY? NOT OKAY?

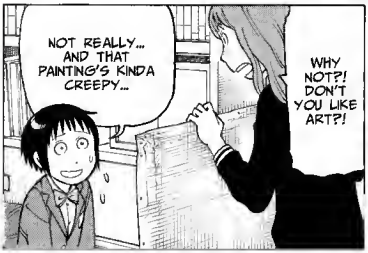
SURE, IT'S PERFECTLY OKAY.

SORRY, CAN I TAKE THE DAY OFF?
UH, TA-TSUN?
HOLD ON. I NEED TO CALL WORK FIRST.
OH, ARE YOU BUSY TODAY?
I RECEIVED PERMIS-SION FROM THE BOSS LADY.
NOT AT ALL.
?
PLEASE DO! PLEASE DO!
AND ONCE THE PAINTING DRIED, I VARNISHED IT AND BROUGHT IT OVER.
SO ANYWAY, IT TAKES ABOUT HALF A YEAR FOR AN OIL PAINTING TO COMPLETELY DRY.
OH, SORRY ABOUT SHOWING UP WITH-OUT ANY NOTICE.

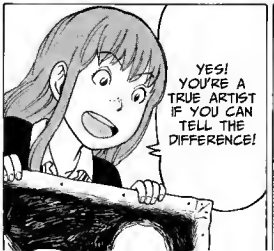
UM... NO, THANK YOU.


THIS IS THE PAINTING THAT YOU WERE A MODEL FOR.
I WANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

WHAT?
カ"
ン
SHOCK


NOT REALLY... AND THAT PAINTING'S KINDA CREEPY...
WHY NOT?! DON'T YOU LIKE ART?!

I MEAN, I APPRECI-ATE THE THOUGHT, BUT I HAVE NOWHERE TO PUT IT...

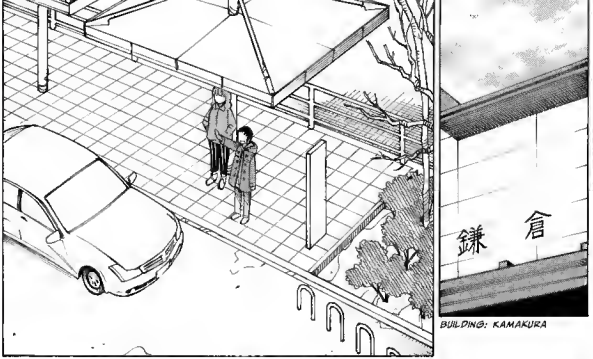

YES! YOU'RE A TRUE ARTIST IF YOU CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE!

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE LIGHTING?
I ACTUALLY THINK IT'S GOTTEN CREEPIER SINCE I SAW IT AT THE MUSEUM.

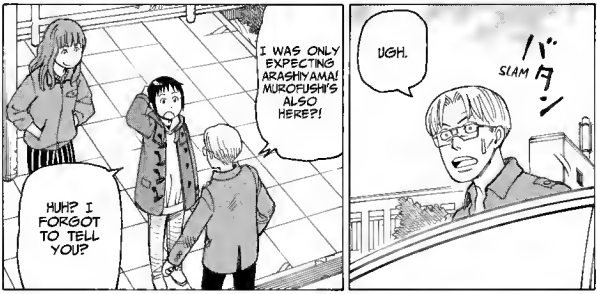
AS AN OIL PAINTING DRIES...
...ITS TEXTURE CONTINUES TO CHANGE.
YOU HAVE TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PAINTING.
OH...
ER, HOLD ON.
I DON'T PAINT.
LOOK!
I SEE CANVASES!
OH... THOSE...
THOSE AREN'T MY PAINTINGS...

OH, THEY'RE MR. MORIAKI'S GRANDFATHER'S PAINTINGS.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THEM?
HE GAVE THEM TO ME.
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...
THEN I DON'T CARE.
...
はぁ
はぁ
SCREECH
YOU CAN TAKE THEM IF YOU WANT THEM.
NAH, NO THANKS. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHERS?
NO, BUT MR. MORIAKI PROBABLY HAS MORE AT HIS HOME.

I WANT TO SEE THEM!
LET'S GO!
CAN YOU CALL HIM AND ASK FOR PERMISSION?
WHAT?! ME?
SO ARE THERE ANY DRAWINGS THAT YOU'VE DONE?
I HAVE SOME FROM CLASS...
THIS IS A HORSE?!
A DOG.
HE'LL SAY NO. MORIARKY'S NO FUN AT ALL.
JUST ASK HIM!
HE... HE SAID OKAY RIGHT AWAY.
THIS WEEK-END.

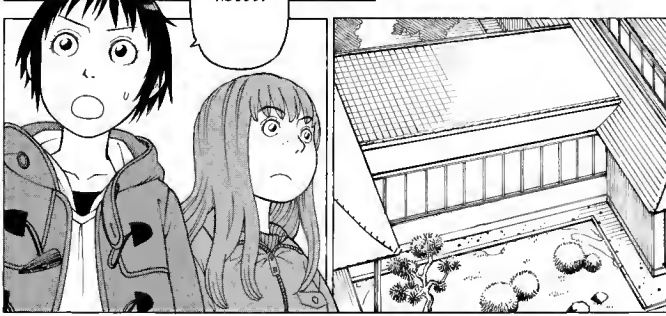


BUILDING: KAMAKURA



ARASHIYAMA AND MUROFUSHI FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY OF PEOPLE!
MUROFUSHI RYOU... I WAS NEVER HER HOMEROOM TEACHER, BUT SHE WAS IN MY MATH CLASS, SO, I KNOW HER VERY WELL!
PEOPLE WHO ACT ON INSTINCT, ON A HUNCH, OR ON A WHIM.
NOW THEY'RE TOGETHER, DESPITE BEING IN DIFFERENT GRADES.
DO ARASHIYAMAS FLOCK TOGETHER...?!
SHIVER
ゾッ
ヴォルルルン
VROOOM

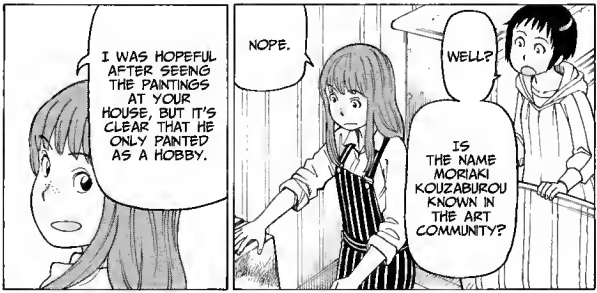
NAMEPLATE: MORIAKI



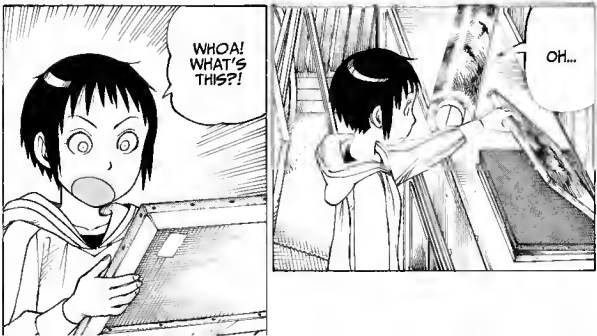
I'LL ARRANGE FOR TEA TO BE BROUGHT OVER, SO FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND.

NO KIDDING.
NOW THAT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL ONLY EVER HEAR A RICH PERSON SAY.

HMM...


WELL?
IS THE NAME MORIAKI KOUZABUROU KNOWN IN THE ART COMMUNITY?
NOPE.
I WAS HOPEFUL AFTER SEEING THE PAINTINGS AT YOUR HOUSE, BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT HE ONLY PAINTED AS A HOBBY.

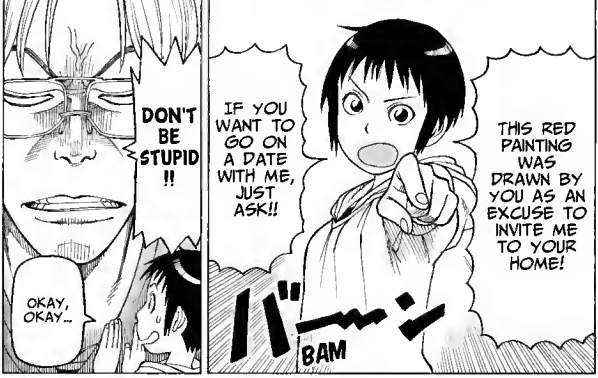
HOW FAMOUS ARE YOU, RYOU-CHIN? YOU WON AN AWARD, RIGHT?
ONE AWARD ISN'T GOING TO MAKE ME BIG ALL OF A SUDDEN.
RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION.


OH...
WHOA! WHAT'S THIS?!

LOOK AT THIS!
THE ENTIRE CANVAS IS RED!
THAT'S PROBABLY JUST THE UNDERCOAT OR BLOTTING FOR A NEW PAINTING.
OH, I WAS THINKING IT WAS CURSED.
HUH?
IT'S BEEN VARNISHED AND FINISHED. SO THIS IS COMPLETE?
IS THIS A PAINTING?
MORIAKI KOUZA-BUROU: "LOCK."
ON CLOSER LOOK, I CAN SEE SOME FAINT TRACES OF A DRAWING...
THAT'S THE ONE, ARASHI-YAMA.

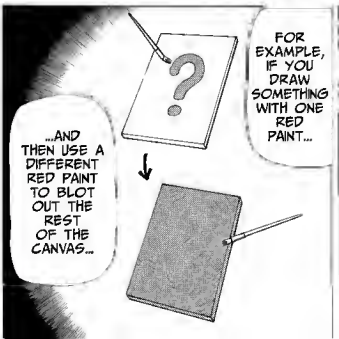
...WHEN I NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE PAINTINGS HAD A SECOND LAYER.
LAST MONTH, I WAS TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE REMAINING PAINTINGS...
AFTER SWALLOWING MY PRIDE AND PREPARING TO JUMP OFF A WATERFALL...
I GREW ANXIOUS AS I WONDERED WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN.
NATSUHIKO-SAN, WHAT IS THIS?!
MOTHER
WHEN I REMOVED THE PAINTING, I FOUND THE RED CANVAS BELOW.
...AND WHY YOU BROUGHT US TO YOUR HOME.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME...
YOU MUST REALLY HATE TALKING TO ME!
...I DECIDED TO ASK FOR YOUR OPINION AGAIN...

TO BE FRANK...
SO "LOCK" WAS THE TITLE OF THIS PAINTING.
THIS IS THE PAINTING THAT WAS ON TOP, HUH?
WAIT, ARE YOU SURE THAT IT WAS COINCIDENCE THAT BROUGHT ME HERE?
?!
BUT WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO SEE THE PAINTINGS, I GOT GOOSE-BUMPS.
...I DON'T BELIEVE IN FATE OR COINCI-DENCE.
IN OTHER WORDS...
EVEN AN AMATEUR KNOWS HOW TO PAINT A CANVAS RED.
THAT RED CANVAS WAS DRAWN BY SOMETHING WITHOUT ANY ARTISTIC TALENT, NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER!


DON'T BE STUPID !!
OKAY, OKAY...
IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE WITH ME, JUST ASK!!
THIS RED PAINTING WAS DRAWN BY YOU AS AN EXCUSE TO INVITE ME TO YOUR HOME!
バーン
BAM

...I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT KOUZABUROU-SAN WOULD HAVE PAINTED THE CANVAS RED FOR NO REASON.
AFTER SEEING THE PAINTINGS AT HER HOUSE AND THE PAINTINGS HERE...

MY TURN!
HEY!


?
FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DRAW SOMETHING WITH ONE RED PAINT...
...AND THEN USE A DIFFERENT RED PAINT TO BLOT OUT THE REST OF THE CANVAS...

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PAINT...
...SO YOU CAN GET DIFFERENT TEXTURES WHILE USING THE SAME SHADE OF RED.

IT MAKES SENSE, AT LEAST.
AND SO...
...I'M GUESSING THAT WAS KOUZA-BUROU-SAN'S OBJECTIVE.
...OVER TIME, AS THE PAINT FADES, THE DRAWING WILL RESURFACE.
I STILL THINK THAT THERE MUST BE SOME MEAN-ING BEHIND THIS RED PAINTING, THOUGH.
...AND I COULD BE ENTIRELY WRONG.
BUT THERE'S NO TELLING THAT THE COLORS WILL EVER BE THAT DIFFERENT...
TO ENJOY ART, YOU HAVE TO ENJOY IT OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.
I KNOW THAT CAN BE HARD FOR YOU, MR. MORIAKI.
IT'S ABSURD TO THINK YOU CAN LOOK AT A PAINTING AND ARRIVE AT THE SAME ANSWER EVERY TIME.
I SEE. SO IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY ANY-THING.

DON'T YOU KNOW I'M A TEACHER?
IT'S MY JOB TO OBSERVE THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.
THAT'S A CLEVER RESPONSE FOR A STICK-IN-THE-MUD LIKE YOU.
BY THE WAY, RYOU-CHIN...
I'VE DECIDED THAT I WANT THE PAINTING I WAS A MODEL FOR.
I'M THINKING THAT I SHOULD HOLD ONTO THE PAINTING AS AN INVESTMENT...
...IN ANTICIPATION OF YOU MAKING IT BIG.
WELL...
I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT.

CHAPTER 121 / END

あとがき

これまでお付き合い頂いている勘の良い皆様は既にお気付きの事と思いますがこの巻は「似たもの」「似て非なるもの」というテーマで歩鳥と亀井堂の因縁の師弟関係を中心に描きました。

世の中には自分と同じ顔をした人間が複数人存在する、とは昔から言われていますが僕のドッペルゲンガーもこれまでに二例見付かっています。

一例目は大学時代に何度も目撃されたソックリさんで、何でも顔、髪型、服装のセンス、歩行姿勢まで似ているのだとか。

友人や後輩達から度々目撃報告がありましたが、結局僕自身はそいつに会えず終いで卒業しました。

二例目は上京した頃住んでいた町で僕と嫁の二人セットのソックリさんが存在していた様です。こちらもラーメン屋のオヤジ、喫茶店のマスターに目撃されています。

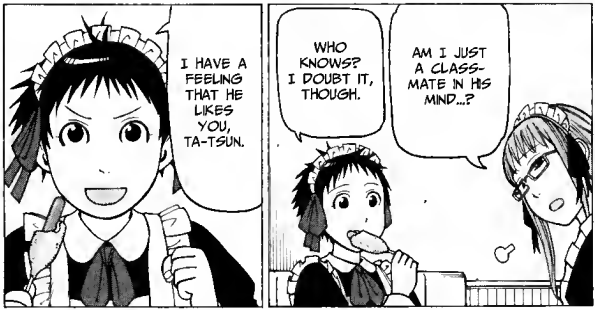
果たして彼らは今もどこかの町で暮らしているのでしょうか。

そもそもひとが言うほど自分に似ているのでしょうか…。

石黒正数

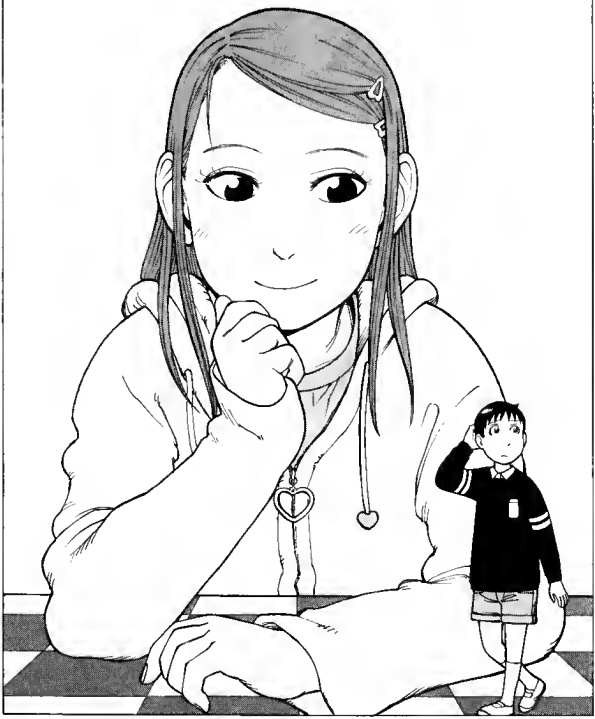
アシスタント　甘夏柚子
アリー

SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

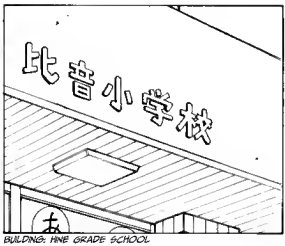


CHAPTER 67

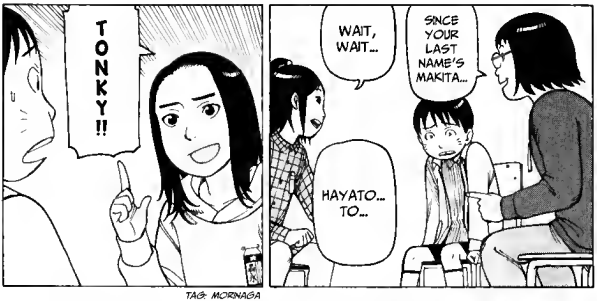
RETURN JEALOUS LOOK



SIGN: CLASS 4-3

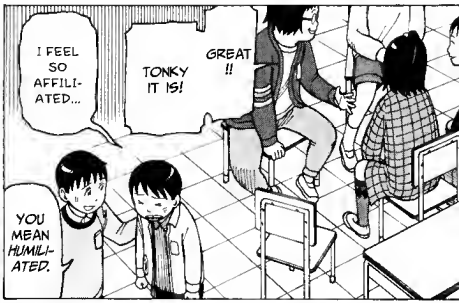


BUILDING: HINE GRADE SCHOOL

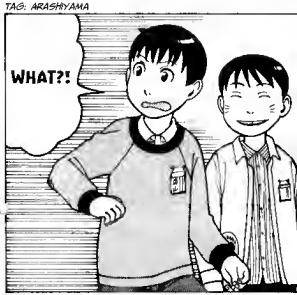


TAG: MORINAGA

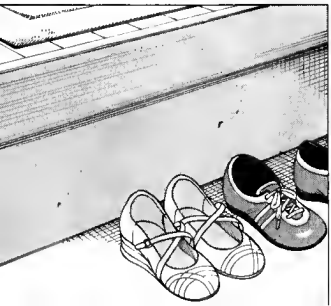
TAG: NEGISHI

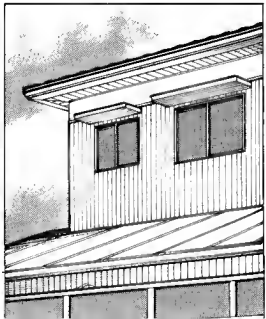


TAG: ARASHIYAMA



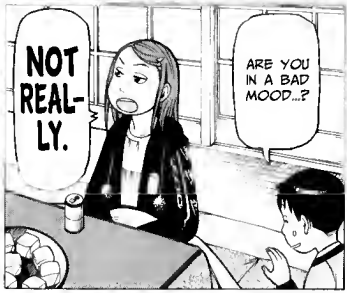
WALL: KINDNESS





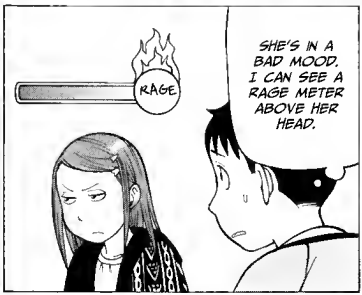
JUMP
ビク

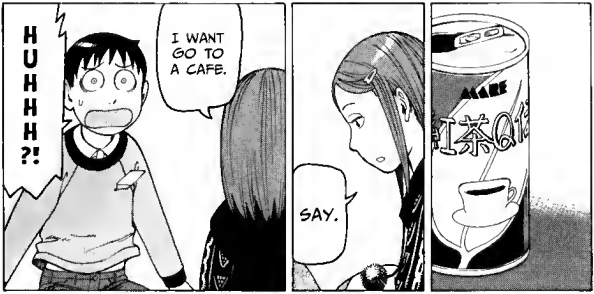
RASSIE.


NOT REAL-LY.
ARE YOU IN A BAD MOOD...?

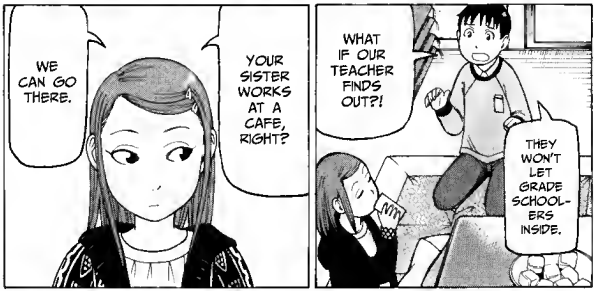
WASN'T IT NICE OF THEM TO GIVE YOU A NICK-NAME?
IN A BITING TONE

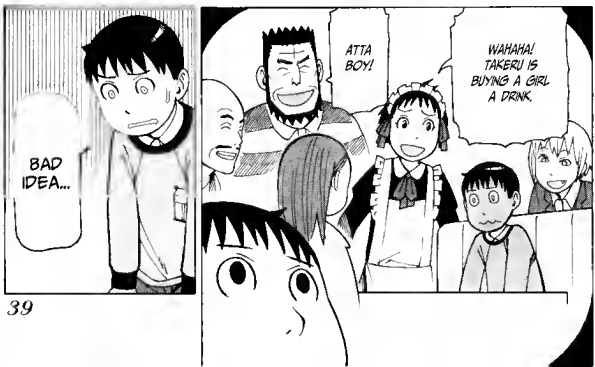
WHAT DO I DO...
BUT SHE NEVER TELLS ME WHY SHE'S UPSET.

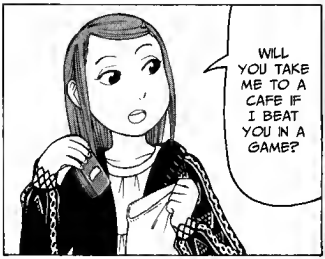

RAGE
SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD. I CAN SEE A RAGE METER ABOVE HER HEAD.


HUHHHH?!
I WANT GO TO A CAFE.
SAY.
AKARE
紅茶

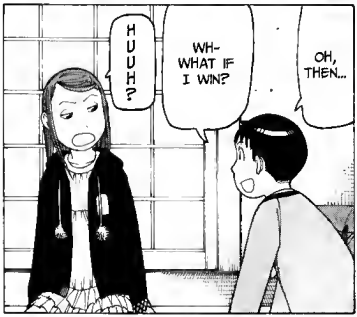
CAN: TEA


WE CAN GO THERE.
YOUR SISTER WORKS AT A CAFE, RIGHT?
WHAT IF OUR TEACHER FINDS OUT?!
THEY WON'T LET GRADE SCHOOLERS INSIDE.

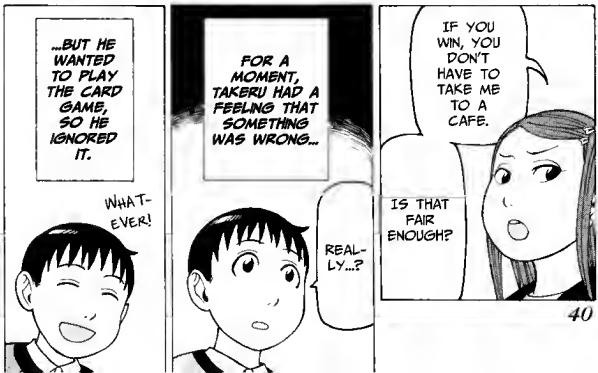

BAD IDEA...
ATTA BOY!
WAHAHA! TAKERU IS BUYING A GIRL A DRINK.


WILL YOU TAKE ME TO A CAFE IF I BEAT YOU IN A GAME?

OKAY...

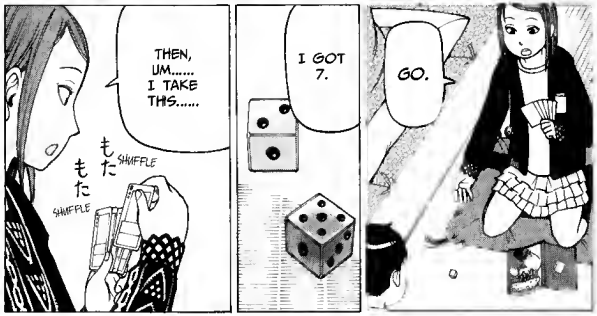

HUUH?
WH-WHAT IF I WIN?
OH, THEN...

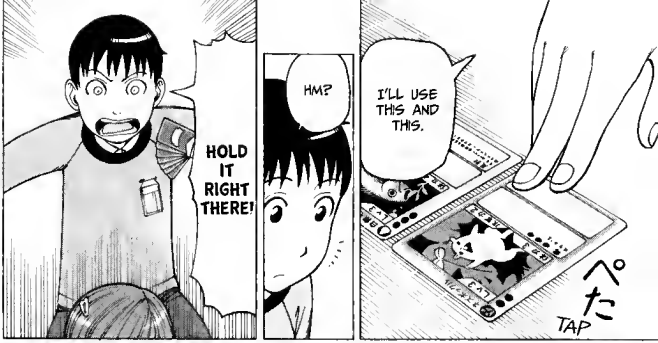
AH!
DEMON COLOS-SEUM CARDS !!


IF YOU WIN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ME TO A CAFE.
IS THAT FAIR ENOUGH?
REAL-LY...?
FOR A MOMENT, TAKERU HAD A FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG...
...BUT HE WANTED TO PLAY THE CARD GAME, SO HE IGNORED IT.
WHAT-EVER!

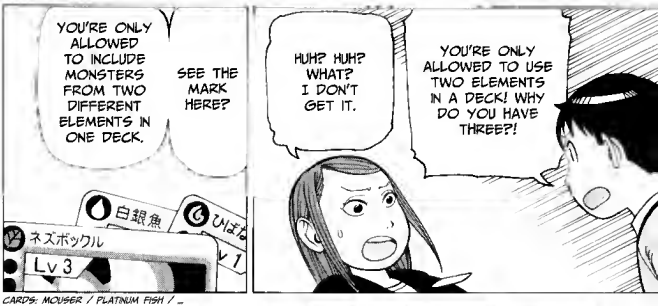
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME, SO CAN I USE THE GUIDE?
SURE, AND YOU CAN GO FIRST.
I GET TO TEST THE DECK THAT I PUT TOGETHER FOR DEALING WITH YAMAMOTO-KUN.

BOOK: DEMON COLOSSEUM GUIDEBOOK

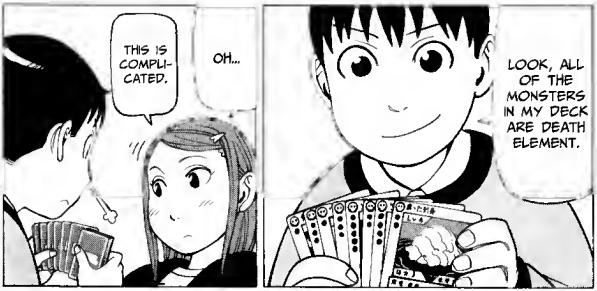




CARD: MOUSER


YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO INCLUDE MONSTERS FROM TWO DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN ONE DECK.
SEE THE MARK HERE?
白銀魚
ネズボックル
Lv 3
HUH? HUH? WHAT? I DON'T GET IT.
YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO USE TWO ELEMENTS IN A DECK! WHY DO YOU HAVE THREE?!

CARDS: MOUSER / PLATINUM FISH / ...



FRONT CARD: ROTTEN SASHIMI

BOX: ESCAPE FROM BATHORY

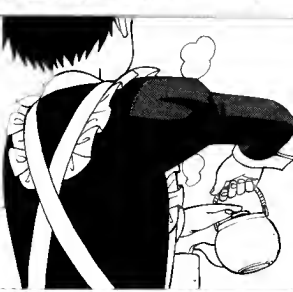
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU WOULD SEE THREE CHILDREN AT PLAY. HOWEVER...
WHEIN!
SURE, WE CAN PLAY TO-GETHER.
ニコ
SMILE
GO AWAY!
AHH...
YUKIKO COULD SEE SOME-THING ELSE.
THE VISUAL MANIFESTATION OF A WOMAN'S TRUE NATURE. A WOMAN'S TRUE NATURE CAN ONLY BE SEEN BY OTHER WOMEN. IN SOME CASES, A MAN'S TRUE NATURE CAN ALSO BE SEEN BY CERTAIN WOMEN, SO BE CAREFUL.
HUH?
I THINK I'LL CLEAN UP MY ROOM INSTEAD.

I'M HOME.
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
I'LL GO BACK TO THE CAFE LATER.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE, SINCE SANADA SHOWED UP.
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
OH...?
THERE'S A FAINT TRACE OF DIFFERENT SHAMPOO IN THE HOUSE...
DID EBI-CHAN DROP BY?
IS SHE A BLOODHOUND?!
SHIVER

...THAT MEANS YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT AND SHE LEFT?
WE DIDN'T FIGHT! WE PLAYED A GAME, I WON, AND SHE GOT MAD AND LEFT.

AND IF SHE'S ALREADY GONE...

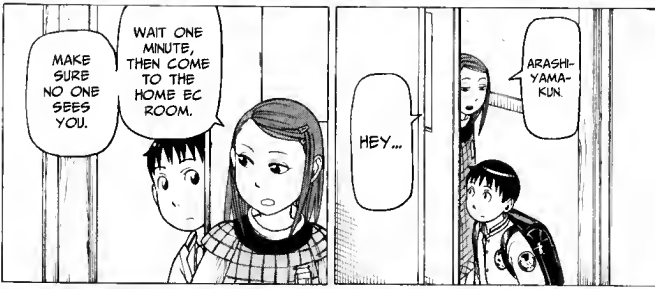
THIS IS GREAT.
I USED A DECK THAT WAS BUILT FOR PLAYING YAMAMOTO-KUN AND WON WITHOUT TAKING ANY DAMAGE... HEHEH.
CACKLE
THIS IS A BEAST DECK IF I CAN LAND CURSE, WICKED MAN AND BONE GOLEM SUCCESSIVELY...



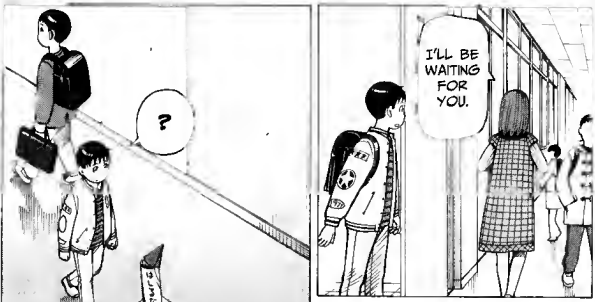
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT EBI-CHAN?

.....
TAKERU...

.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?
IS SHE JUST A CLASS-MATE?
DO YOU CONSIDER HER ONLY A FRIEND?
WELL...
OR DOES SHE MEAN MORE ...?
I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER RIGHT NOW.
AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
WHY ARE MEN SO...
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
SIP
ズズー



CONE: NO RUNNING



WHAT?
I'LL LOOK AT IT WHEN I GET HOME.
LOOK AT IT NOW!
OH, IS THAT THE CATALOG YOU MODEL FOR?
LOOK AT THIS.
...A NEW ISSUE!
Filly
FILLY STYLE SPRING
BUT...
WHAT IF SOME-ONE COMES ...?
LOOK! THIS OUTFIT IS REALLY CUTE.
1977

GRRRRRR...
むっ
かぁ
あ～
WHY AM I SO MAD?!
??
I CAN'T CONTROL MY ANGER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

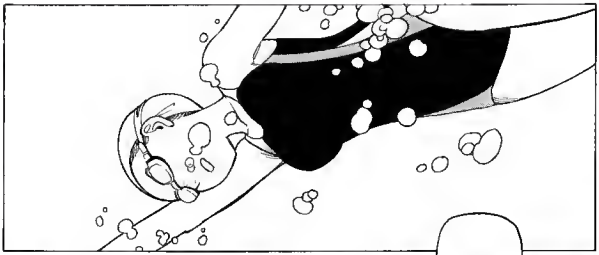
ARE YOU ANGRY?
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH?
AH!
NO!
HOME-ROOM'S STARTING SOON, SO I'M GOING.
HEL-LO?!
ARE YOU IN A BAD MOOD?!
Filly
...INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE TAILORED TO LOCAL SPECIAL-TIES...
4年3組

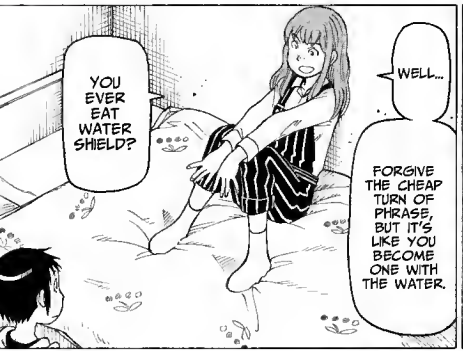
CHAPTER 67 / END

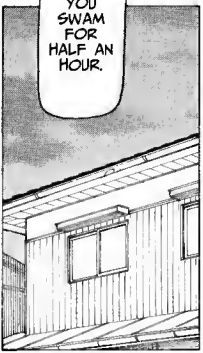
NAMEPLATE: TATSUNO

※1 A RAFFLE WITH PRIZES FEATURING PICTURES OF ANIME OR MANGA CHARACTERS.

※2 TAIMA SENSEN: A SHONEN MANGA TATSUNO LIKES.




YOU EVER EAT WATER SHIELD?
WELL...
FORGIVE THE CHEAP TURN OF PHRASE, BUT IT'S LIKE YOU BECOME ONE WITH THE WATER.

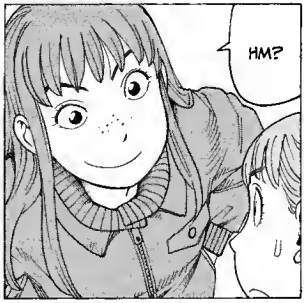

YOU SWAM FOR HALF AN HOUR.

ISN'T THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE TIRED?
YOU FEEL LIKE THAT, LIKE YOU'VE GOT A SHIELD OF WATER AROUND YOU.
YEAH!

I'VE ONLY TRIED IT ONCE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.
IT WAS SLIMY AND BLOBBY AND CRUNCHY.

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE SOUND OF THE WATER.
IT STOPS MATTERING WHY YOU'RE SWIMMING OR HOW MANY HUNDRED METERS YOU'VE SWUM.
AND I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THAT.
YOU ARE TIRED, BUT THE MORE TIRED YOU GET, THE FEWER WASTED MOTIONS YOU TAKE, SO IT'S A GOOD THING.
NO, I THINK I GET IT.
JUST... I KNOW PEOPLE WHO...
WELL, I DO ABSTRACT PAINTINGS.
ARE YOU NOT FOLLOWING ME?
SUZU-CHIN, YOU OFTEN SPEAK IN ABSTRACTS.
YOUR DESCRIPTION OF WATER SHIELD WAS EVERY BIT AS ABSTRACT.
WHO ONLY SAY 20% OF WHAT THEY WANT TO SAY.
WHO TAKE AIM AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER.
WHO SPEAK VERY DIRECTLY.
AND IT STRUCK ME YOU'VE DIFFERENT FROM ALL OF THEM.

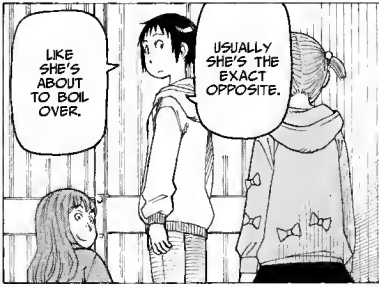
BUT MAN, I REALLY FEEL AT HOME IN YOUR HOUSE.
OOPS, I DROOLED.
HEY!!
SNIFF SNIFF
I SMELL DINNER COOKING. I'D BETTER LEAVE, HUH?
GROWWL
.....
.....
NO, I'M GOOD! I PROMISED MY BROTHER I'D EAT WITH HIM.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!


HM?

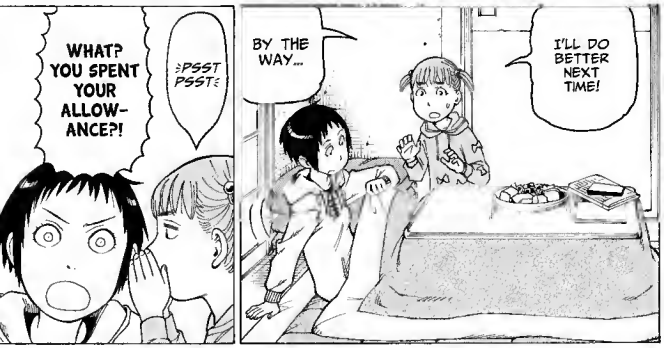
YUKIKO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
コペ… N…
NOD
QUIET KID.

YOUR SISTER? DAUGHTER?
SISTER, OBVIOUSLY!

I'M WHAT? THAT SOUNDS MEAN!
GUESS YOU'RE INTIMIDATING ENOUGH TO SPOOK HER.

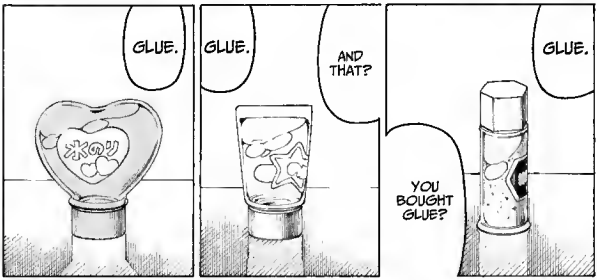

LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO BOIL OVER.
USUALLY SHE'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

...THE WILD BEAST INSIDE YUKIKO KNEW ONLY FEAR.
BE THAT AS IT MAY...
DANG IT, YUKIKO!
KIDS WHO CAN'T SAY "HI" PROPERLY GIVE A BAD IMPRESSION!

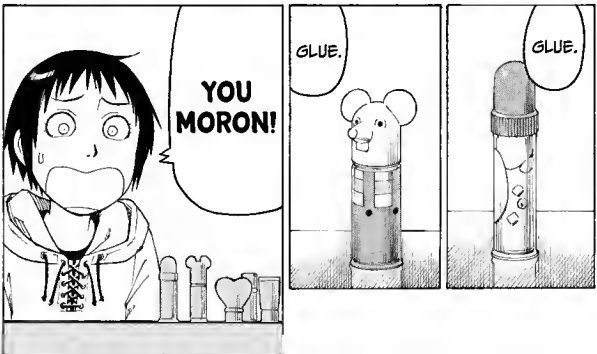

WHAT? YOU SPENT YOUR ALLOWANCE?!
PSST PSST
BY THE WAY...
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME!

STATIONERY SUPPLIES.
YOU JUST GOT IT THE OTHER DAY. WHAT'D YOU BUY?
SHHHHHHH!

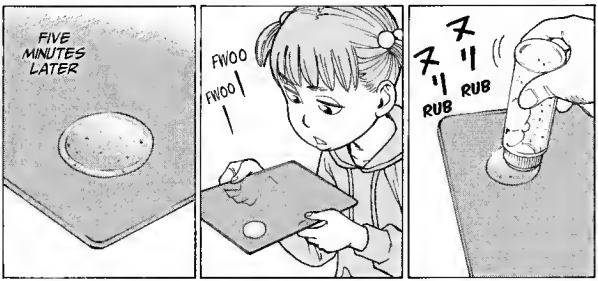
BOX: GLUE



LABEL: LIQUID GLUE

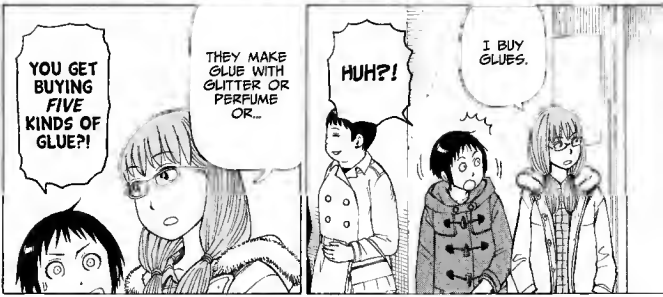


WHY ARE YOU MAKING A "SHE DOESN'T GET IT" FACE?!
WHY DID YOU BUY SO MANY KINDS OF GLUE?!


FIVE MINUTES LATER
FWOO
FWOO
ヌリ
ヌリ
RUB
RUB

AHHHH~
ウットリ
GLITTER
GLITTER
キラ

POSTERS: NEW MONEY USHIJIMA-SAN! / LUCK GIRL



IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY WE CAN PULL?

YES. ONLY FIVE PER CUSTOMER, PLEASE.

OKAY, LET'S GO!

THEN I'LL DO FIVE!

TAIMA SENSEN LOTTERY

A PRIZE: FIGURE (5 TYPES)

D PRIZE: GLASS (5 TYPES)

C PRIZE: LONG TOWEL (6 TYPES)

B PRIZE: CUSHION (5 TYPES)

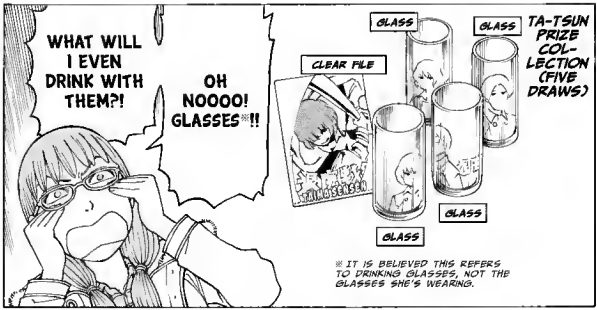
E PRIZE: RUBBER KEY-CHAIN (5 TYPES)

F PRIZE: CLEAR FILES (10 TYPES)

D ③

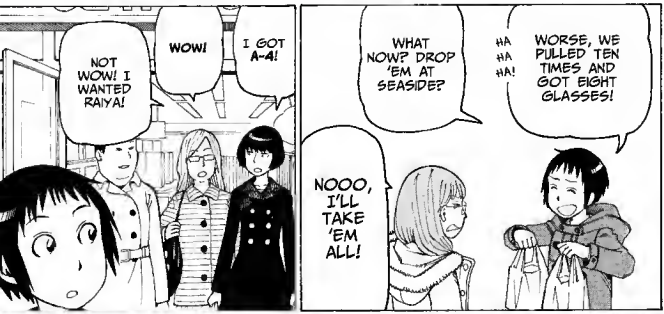
ピッ FWIP

ズボア THUNK



BOX: CHARACTER GOODS RAFFLE, TAIMA SENSEN, THE STORE CANNOT ACCEPT RETURNS. SIGN: REGISTER

THE ONE I WANT IS A-4.
YOU WENT AND PULLED A-1.
THAT'S NOT RIGHT! THE NUMBER'S DIFFERENT, SO THE CHARACTER IS ALL WRONG!
NOT MY FAULT!

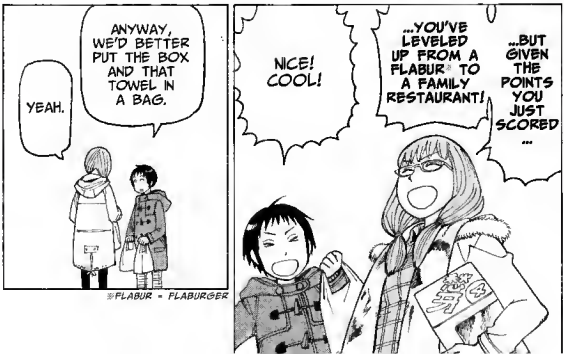

WORSE, WE PULLED TEN TIMES AND GOT EIGHT GLASSES!
HA HA HA!
WHAT NOW? DROP 'EM AT SEASIDE?
NOOO, I'LL TAKE 'EM ALL!
I GOT A-4!
WOW!
NOT WOW! I WANTED RAIYA!

BOX: RAIYA

UM...
WANNA TRADE?

BOX: SHUGA

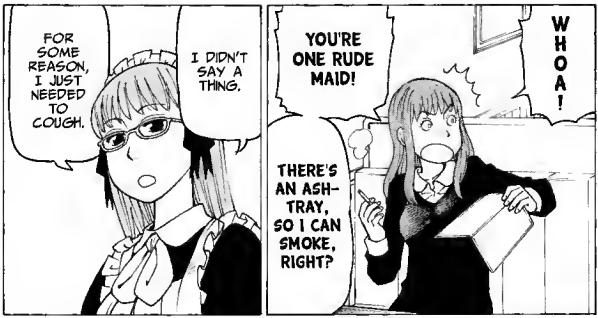
YEAH! I WAS ALWAYS GONNA BUY YOU LUNCH...
LET'S EAT SOME-THING.
AFTER WAITING AN HOUR IN THE COLD FOR THE SHOP TO OPEN, I'M POOPED.
PEOPLE LINE UP THIS EARLY...
CHAR-ACTER GOODS ARE BIG, HUH?


ANYWAY, WE'D BETTER PUT THE BOX AND THAT TOWEL IN A BAG.
YEAH.
NICE! COOL!
...YOU'VE LEVELED UP FROM A FLABUR* TO A FAMILY RESTAURANT!
...BUT GIVEN THE POINTS YOU JUST SCORED ...

*FLABUR = FLABURGER

SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE
COFFEE
シーサイド
DING DONG
カラン
カラン
OHHH!
THIS IS PRETTY SWEET!
NICE PLACE YOU WORK AT!
FRIEND OF YOURS?
LONG STORY, BUT YEAH.
GRAN NOT HERE?
SHE'S... YOU KNOW.
クイ
TURN
クイ
TURN
I'M GONNA CHANGE. TAKE YOUR TIME!
SURE!
CRACKING SAFES?
PACHINKO!

パタ
パタ
BAM
BAM
COUGH COUGH
BLOWWW
ふぅ
かぉ


WHOA!
YOU'RE ONE RUDE MAID!
THERE'S AN ASH-TRAY, SO I CAN SMOKE, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T SAY A THING.
FOR SOME REASON, I JUST NEEDED TO COUGH.

BESIDES, THE FIRST LETTER IN "CAFE" IS THE SAME AS "CIGARETTE."
THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "CAFE" COMBINES THE KANJI FROM "TEA," "SHOP," AND "ENJOY-MENT."
MEANING A SHOP WHERE ONE ENJOYS TEA.

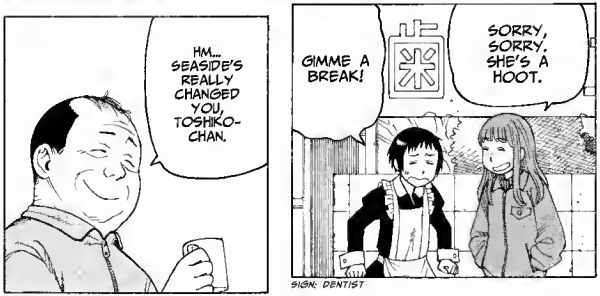
GRIN
ニヤリ
GASP
はっ
THEN WHAT TEAS YOU GOT?
MMKAY.
MENU

ERP...
TEA... TEA... I WANT TEA...

I KEEP SAYING WE SHOULD SERVE TEA, JUST IN CASE!
IN CASE OF WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HEY! HEY!
YOU JUST MET!

AND OLDER THAN US...
SHE'S ALSO A CUSTOMER!
BUT SHE'S YOUR FRIEND.
YOU'RE THE ONE ALWAYS YELLING AT ME FOR BEING RUDE TO CUSTOM-ERS!
MOI?!
WHY WERE THEY FIGHTING?
YOU SAW IT ALL.
YEAH, I KNEW YOU'D FEEL THAT WAY, SOMEHOW.
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS HATED THE IDEA OF BEING POLITE TO PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BE BORN A YEAR OR TWO EARLIER.
SLUMP
...IT WAS TOSHIKO-CHAN'S FAULT... MAYBE?
I... THINK...
UM...
UH

カラン
DING DONG
カラン
MY CUP OF TEA!
TO FULLY ENJOY!
THEN I'LL COME AGAIN!
ARGH, STOP IT, SUZU-CHIN!


HM... SEASIDE'S REALLY CHANGED YOU, TOSHIKO-CHAN.
GIMME A BREAK!
SORRY, SORRY. SHE'S A HOOT.
SIGN: DENTIST

UH, I JUST WANTED IT TO RHYME. I GUESS THAT MADE IT CONFUSING...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IS IT A BAD THING?
NOW YOU'RE JUST KEEPING UP YOUR END.
YOU USED TO TRY TO BE EVERY-BODY'S FRIEND.

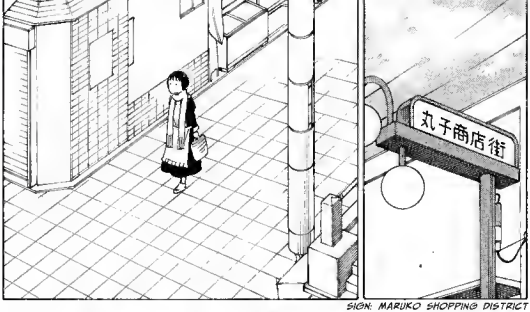
I WONDER WHY...
MY BROTHER SAID THE SAME THING.
YOU SEEM MORE YOURSELF, AND MORE ALIVE.
I JUST MEANT THAT THE REAL YOU IS SHOWING THROUGH.
YOU'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER TWO YEARS!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?!
MAYBE HOTORI AND I ARE JUST A GOOD MATCH.
YOU'RE WHAT WE CALL AN ODD COUPLE.
NEVER BRING HER AGAIN!
NO MORE FIGHTING!

CHAPTER 129 / END

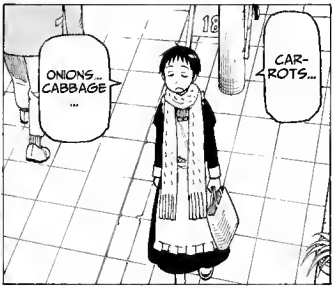
修学旅行おまけ

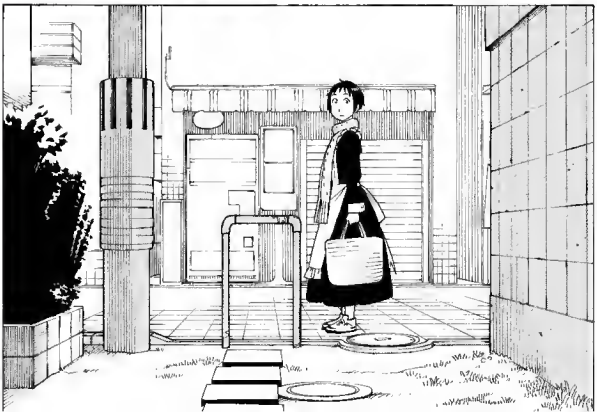
さっぽろ羊ヶ丘展望台

好きで
sapporo

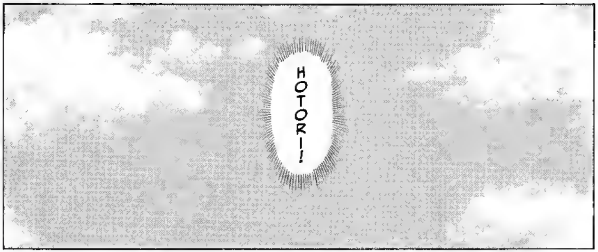


SIGN: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT





I GUESS I...
...WON'T GO DOWN THAT ALLEY ANY MORE.

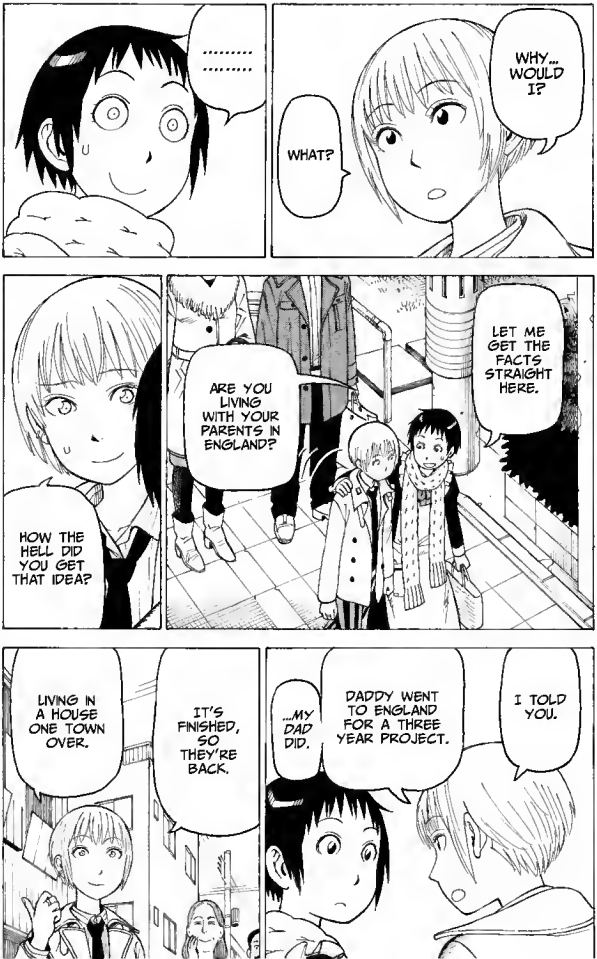

HOTORI!

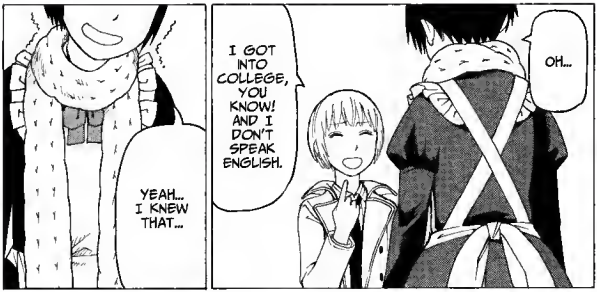
WHAT TIME IS IT IN ENGLAND NOW?
I CAN ALMOST HEAR SENPAI'S VOICE NOW.

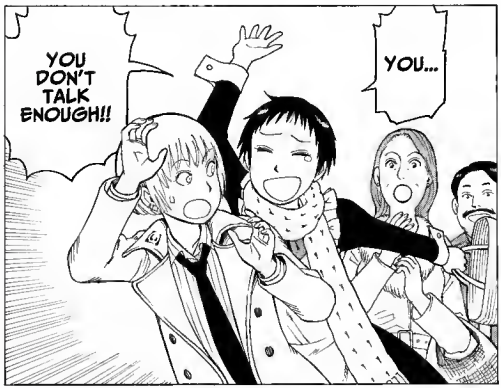
HUH?!
I SAID, HOTORI!

YOU'VE BEEN SUUCH A BIG HELP TO FUTABA!
WE JUST STOPPED BY YOUR PLACE.
WHAT...?
.....
WHY...?

HUH?
SO YOU HAVEN'T LEFT JAPAN YET?
I WAS?!
SHE WAS.
I HOPE SHE WASN'T TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER.


.....
.....
WHAT?
WHY... WOULD I?
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?
ARE YOU LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS IN ENGLAND?
LET ME GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT HERE.
LIVING IN A HOUSE ONE TOWN OVER.
IT'S FINISHED, SO THEY'RE BACK.
...MY DAD DID.
DADDY WENT TO ENGLAND FOR A THREE YEAR PROJECT.
I TOLD YOU.





CHAPTER 130 / END

あとがき

とうとう歩鳥が修学旅行に行きました。
僕の高校の修学旅行は九州でした。フェリーで一泊したのですが、女子は二人一組の個室だったのに対し、男子は船底の大部屋に20人すし詰めでした。まぁ楽しかったから良いんですけど。深夜、暗い海底が見えるばかりの寝室の窓に、ぬっと人の顔が現れ男子全員パニックに陥る恐怖体験をしました。何のことは無い、直接海水に面していると思われた窓の外に、実は細い通路と大きな窓があり、我々は二重の窓越しに海底を見ていただけの事で、その通路を見回りの先生が通った訳です。手の込んだトリックだなぁと思いました。

修学旅行というのは独特で、せせこましくめまぐるしいスケジュールだったという印象は大人になった今も拭いきれませんが、当時のクラスメイトに会うとやはり修学旅行の話は定番で、当日「ダリー」と言ってた割に、それぞれ楽しい思い出になっている事が伺えます。漫画のキャラクターが修学旅行に行くにあたって、あの独特な感じがちょっとでも再現できたら…と、当時の事を思い出しながら描きました。

アシスタント　甘夏柚子
アリー